

**Remarks delivered by Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
on behalf of Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of
Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, on the Celebration of the 242nd
Anniversary of Independence of the United States of America**

(June 21, 2018, O2 Park, Chaguaramas 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Mr John McIntyre, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the United States of America, and Ms Flora Zylfijaj; (Zul-fi-yai);

Ministers of Government

Your Excellencies Heads of Mission and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Honourable Judges of the High Court;

Members of Parliament;

Chief of Defense Staff, Commodore Hayden Pritchard;

Your Worship the Mayor of Port of Spain, Alderman Joel Martinez;

Your Worship the Mayor of San Fernando Alderman Junior Regrello;

Members of the Consular Corps;

Other Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening,

It gives me great pleasure to join you this evening in celebrating the 242nd Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America. On behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, I wish to extend congratulatory greetings to the Government and people of the United States of America on this esteemed occasion.

I was especially pleased at the theme selected for this evening's celebration. It provides an opportunity to recognise the diversity which is the United States of America, which along with the continental states includes the Hawaiian islands. These islands bear much in common with Trinidad and Tobago - the exotic flora and fauna, the rich cultural traditions and the friendly and welcoming peoples.

This evening, I take the opportunity to reaffirm Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to strengthening the longstanding relationship of cooperation between our two nations, aimed at mutual growth and development. Of particular importance is the ongoing cooperation in the field of national security, an area of critical importance to both of our nations. Trinidad and Tobago appreciates the sharing of valuable assets, technical cooperation and expertise in this field.

As we celebrate tonight, once again I extend congratulations to the Government and people of the United States of America on its 242nd year of Independence.

Mahalo (I thank you).