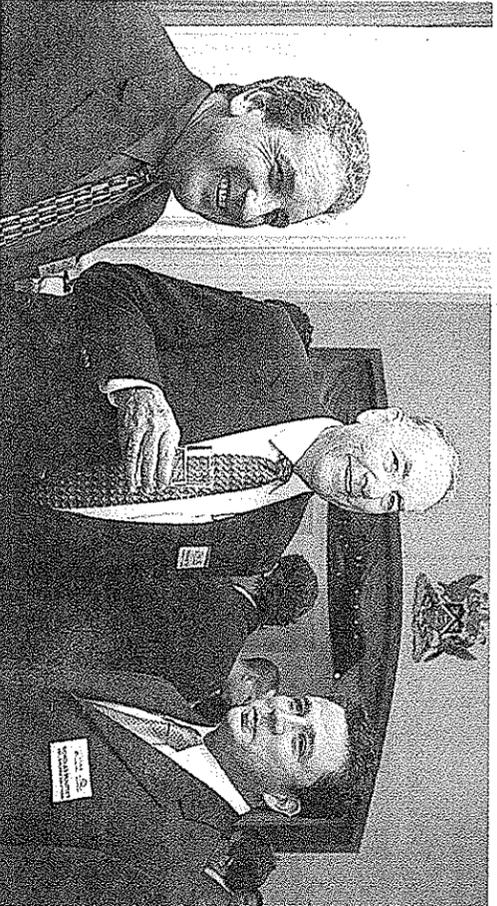


ABOVE: Sir Luis Andrade Falla, secretary general, Association of Caribbean States, centre, with Catherine Kumar, CEO, T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce, left, and Angella Persad, president, T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce.



LEFT: Guisela Godínez, Ambassador of Guatemala, left, and Richard Young, managing director, Scotiabank.



Derek De Gannes, managing director, ANSA Polymer, left, Frank Mouttet of the Frank Mouttet Ltd Group of Companies, and Nicholas Mouttet, managing director, ABEL Building Solutions.



Anthony Rahael, group CEO, RHL Group of Companies, left, with Reynold Cooper, permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, and fashion designer Claudia Pegus.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar, right, with Gerry Brooks, chief operations officer, ANSA McAL, and Wayne Yip Croy, CEO, Angostura Holdings Ltd.

Making a connection

On October 19, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar hosted a reception at the Diplomatic Centre at St Ann's to launch a conference titled, "Connecting the Caribbean and Central America."

In welcoming guests, the Prime Minister said that the event provided a unique opportunity for business operators within the regional sub-groups to meet in one space. The conference, she said, provided T&T and, by extension, Caricom with significant opportunities to forge stronger economic ties with our Central American counterparts.

These linkages, the Prime Minister said, will serve to deepen the regional integration process. In commending Caricom companies for their presence at the event, she said, "our commitment to engage in trade with Central America is an unquestionable display

of the region's capability to compete on an international level, and these companies should be applauded for their tenacity and determination to engage on the world stage."

Included among guests at the reception

ANDRÉ ALEXANDER
story and photos

were: Dr Suruj Rambachan; Minister of Foreign Affairs; Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Trade and Industry; Ambassador Luis Andrade Falla, secretary general, Association of Caribbean States; Yolanda Mayora de Garvida, secretary general, Economic Integration in Central America; and Angella Persad, president, T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce.



ABOVE: Jeremy Matouk, owner, CRU Fine Wine Merchants, left, Dominic Hadeed, chairman, Pepsi Cola Trinidad Bottling Co Ltd, and Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Trade and Industry.

RIGHT: Jacqueline Quamina, group general counsel/corporate secretary, Republic Bank Ltd, left, with Derrick Mestre Mewball, trade advisor, Association of Caribbean States, and fashion designer Melting.

