



# OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, W.I.  
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION  
PRESS RELEASE

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State Opening of First Parliament of Trinidad  
and Tobago

Address by the Prime Minister

May It please Your Royal Highness:

It is with a feeling of deep pride, pleasure and satisfaction, as Prime Minister of the newly Independent State of Trinidad and Tobago, that I offer you, for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen, the profound thanks and appreciation of the Government, Parliament and People of this country for Her Majesty's gracious message.

We have looked forward with considerable pleasure to our entry into the Commonwealth Family. Now that this goal has been achieved, I ask you to convey to Her Majesty an expression of our unfailing loyalty and devotion to her Throne and Person. We have been inspired by her good wishes and we pledge ourselves to fulfil the promise expected of us, not only by Her Majesty, but by all the nations of the world, to show how our small community with its people drawn from many lands, of diverse racial origins, and subscribing to a variety of religious beliefs, can, in harmonious cooperation, make its contribution to the sum total of world peace, world progress and world happiness.

I should like to express also, on behalf of us all in Trinidad and Tobago, a sense of deep satisfaction and gratitude to Your Royal Highness for taking the very long and tiresome journey to this country from the United Kingdom, in order to grace our festivities with your royal presence and to perform the important function of opening for the first time our State Parliament. Parliament and the country will be the richer for your having come, bringing as you do the long-established traditions of the British monarchical system and democracy and all that these have stood for in this changing and uncertain world. The activities which you have so generously consented to undertake during the next few days are very burdensome. We hope, however, that you will carry away with you rich memories of the warmth, friendliness, and loyalty of this small but, we hope, not insignificant part of the Commonwealth family.

May I conclude by expressing the hope that this visit of yours to our shores, which is not the first, will certainly not be the last; and that we shall have, on some future occasion, the opportunity to display once more the esteem and affection in which you are held by the people of Trinidad and Tobago and to demonstrate to you the contributions which we have set out to make to world democracy and to the defence and protection of human freedom.

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