



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

March 10, 2026

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF DEFENCE COMMENDS PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP IN STRENGTHENING HEMISPHERIC SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Ministry of Defence wishes to recognize and congratulate the Honorable Prime Minister for her diligent efforts and leadership in bringing our country back to the table of hemispheric security, a table at which our country sat between 2007 and 2015.

Through the indefatigable work ethic of the Honorable Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago was elevated to a grouping of just 12 countries in our hemisphere, a selection which came only as a result of effective diplomacy and credible leadership.

A necessary prerequisite for any credible claim to sovereignty is the ability to define and secure one's borders.

It therefore cannot be gainsaid, that the sudden and steady decline in our country's ability to secure its borders started *circa* 2017, around the same time of the strengthening of the relationship between the last regime and the Maduro led regime, which later culminated in mass migration from Venezuela from 2019 onwards, a period which accelerated and exacerbated severe economic pressure on our country's economy and intensified the pressure on our national security apparatus.

Perhaps by coincidence or possibly by design, this period also witnessed a degradation of our naval and other assets necessary to surveil, secure and defend our borders.

Through the initiatives of the Honorable Prime Minister, from as early as June last year, the process of engaging in constructive and meaningful dialogue with our US counterparts

began, with the ultimate goal of strengthening our bilateral relationship in matters of mutual national and regional security, including energy security.

Fully cognizant of our country's geographical and financial significance to Narco Cartels and other Transnational Criminal Networks, the Honorable Prime Minister engaged in pragmatic diplomacy with the Government of the United States of America.

In her meeting with US SOUTHCOM the Honorable Prime Minister engaged in planning discussions with a view to deepening our partnership with the Government of the United States, ensuring Trinidad and Tobago's continued access to surveillance, enhanced intelligence sharing and henceforth, the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment not previously available to us in our fight against those who seek to undermine our border security and national security.

The Ministry of Defence wishes to thank the Honorable Prime Minister for cementing our partnership with the Government of the United States in matters of National Security, Regional Security and Energy Security and for making concrete advances in securing the assets and resources needed to protect our country and our people from the deleterious effects which flow from the operations of the Narco-Traffickers and Transnational Criminal Networks.

The country is now better placed to embark upon a national security reset, with the provision of the kind of security to which our citizens are entitled.

Wayne D Sturge, M.P
Minister of Defence
Minister in the Ministry of Homeland Security

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