

13th October, 2009.

Mr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India.

Dear Sir,

My name is Daniel Byer and I would like to welcome you to our beautiful twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago and give you a bit of information about what our country can teach the world.

First let me say that our nation is a cosmopolitan one. Our history shows that our ancestors came from many different parts of the world and settled here. They were of different races and brought with them their varying cultures and thus we have the society that we do today. In our country everyone finds an equal place as our anthem says, no matter what the race or culture. We live together in harmony.

Our people are also by nature, very warm and friendly. This is something that many visitors to our shores always comment about. We prefer to have a 'lime' or a party and talk out our differences than to erupt in violent protests.

In addition to our people, our country is also rich in other natural resources such as oil, gas and pitch. We also have many beautiful beaches especially in Tobago which attracts many tourists every year. These varying natural resources provide revenue not only to support our economy but enables us to help our Caribbean neighbours when needed.

Finally, I cannot talk to you about Trinidad without talking about our creativity and Carnival. Carnival is a national festival, which is held annually. Band leaders and costume makers demonstrate their creativity by designing and creating a variety of costumes using many different materials and colours. These costumes depict our culture, our heritage our resources and many other themes. Masqueraders parade these costumes on the streets of our cities for two days every year. The music created for Carnival also illustrates our creativity as Trinidad is the original home of the 'calypso' and 'soca' music. It is also the home of the only musical instrument invented in the twentieth century, the steelpan, which is played especially for the Carnival. Many tourists come to share our Carnival experience and our music is also exported all over the world.

As you can see, our cosmopolitan nature, our warm and friendly people, our natural resources and our creativity are all aspects from which we can teach and share with the world, and I do hope that you experience some of these aspects while you are on our shores. Let me again welcome you to Trinidad and Tobago and wish you a productive meeting and a pleasant stay.

Yours respectfully,
Daniel Byer.