

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 25, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
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The United States today formally recognized the Republic of Surinam and welcomed it to the community of independent nations. U.S. recognition was extended in a letter from President Ford to the President of Surinam, Johan Henri Eliza Ferrier.

Surinam's independence from the Netherlands is being officially proclaimed in a ceremony today in Paramaribo. Representing the United States at that ceremony is an official delegation led by Secretary of the Navy William J. Middendorf, II. John R. Butler, Jr., Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Geoquest, Inc., of Houston, Texas, and the United States Consul General in Paramaribo, Robert L. Flanegin, are also members of the delegation.

The United States has maintained a consular establishment in Paramaribo since 1790; that has now been elevated to embassy status. An ambassador will be named in the future.

The following is the text of the President's letter to President Ferrier:

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to send to the Government and people of Surinam my congratulations and the best wishes of the American people upon the attainment of your nation's independence. At the same time I extend to you the recognition of the United States Government and express my hope that, with your agreement, diplomatic relations can be established promptly between our two countries at the Ambassadorial level.

We are fortunate in having a tradition of friendly relations between our peoples upon which we can build a cooperative relationship.

The United States shares the aspirations of your Government for the progress and welfare of the people of Surinam. We look forward to engaging in close and friendly relations aimed at prosperity in the Hemisphere and peace in the world.

GERALD R. FORD

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