



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Head Office: Riverside Plaza, #3 Besson Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Telephone (868) 623-6708 ext 2102 Facsimile (868) 627 – 1486

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### **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COLLABORATE ON THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

On May 13, 2008 the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and senior Government Officials, including Senator, the Honourable Conrad Enill, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Senator, the Honourable Martin Joseph, Minister of National Security and the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs received a delegation led by United States Secretary of Energy, the Honourable Samuel Bodman. The U.S. delegation included Mr. Kevin Kovelar, Assistant Secretary of Energy and Mr. Robert Stephan, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Homeland Security along with technical teams from both departments.

Secretary Bodman formally presented the Honourable Prime Minister with a Report on the evaluation of the vulnerability of our critical energy infrastructure, which was conducted by a U.S. assessment team from the Department of Energy, Homeland Security and Defense in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Energy & Energy Industries.

The Honourable Prime Minister and the Secretary of Energy agreed that the security initiative was a positive development for Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America given their energy relationship, particularly with respect to liquefied natural gas (LNG). The United States of America is Trinidad and Tobago's largest market for LNG with an average of two thirds of U.S. LNG imports over the last five years coming from Trinidad and Tobago.

In recognition of the importance of Trinidad and Tobago's energy sector and this country's leadership in the English Caribbean it was agreed that the United States of America and Trinidad and Tobago would continue to work together to ensure the protection and safety of key local energy facilities and to lend their expertise to the wider Caribbean.

The meeting was followed by a roundtable assessment, which reviewed the findings and the recommendations of the Report. The roundtable was co-chaired by the Minister of Energy & Energy Industries and the U.S. Secretary of Energy, and included the Minister of National Security and Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as their respective technical teams.

In continuation of the process, both Governments co-hosted a two-day critical energy infrastructure workshop on May 14-15, 2008 attended by local and regional energy sector executives and government officials. Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of National Security and Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries as well as the United States Southern Command and Department of Energy facilitated the workshop.

**Ministry Of Energy & Energy Industries**  
**May 15, 2008**

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Ms. Alicia Carter-Fisher  
Communications Manager