

AmericasRelief Team

NEWS REPORT

March 20, 2005

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Annual Report to the Caribbean Basin Consul Generals Preparing for the '2005 Hurricane Season

On Friday, March 18, 2005, humanitarian relief organizations, and a number of South Florida corporations joined Americas Relief Team and Carnival Corporation to urge officials from the Caribbean Basin countries to begin preparing for the next blast of tropical weather.

Christine Herridge, Director of Disaster Management of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), a unit of the of the OAS, provided processes for obtaining help following a brush with a hurricane; Julieta N. Valls, President of the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) announced a \$700,000 grant from the Jimmy Buffet Foundation to help rebuild Caribbean countries which were devastated by last year's hurricanes; and Eric Williams, President of GOAL, Inc. unveiled the AmericasRelief Logistics' Center and a bank of charity cargo space available to charities and others wishing to help the Caribbean countries after any disaster.

Special presentations were made by Jorge L. Arrizurieta, President of Florida FTAA, Inc., and by Juan N. Cento, President of FedEx Express Latin America and Caribbean. Cento showed how FedEx responded to emergencies and natural disasters after last year's devastating events. A common statement by those attending was that "being good trade partners with the Caribbean start as good neighbors".

Introduction of officials representing the countries of: Colombia, Belize, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, and The Dominican Republic were made during a five course lunch, sponsored by Carnival Cruise Lines aboard the MS Fascination.

THE SPEAKERS



Celebrating with the speakers were the many relief organizations present during the event, including: Feed the Children, Harvest International, The American Red Cross, Enterprise Florida, and Caribbean-Central American Action.

THE CONSULATE REPRESENTATIVES



The VIP's included, The Honorable: C.P. Ricardo Allicock of Jamaica, Carmenza Jaramillo De Maincourt and Alfredo A. Saade of Colombia, Joyce D. Bourne of Barbados, Gail P. Guy of Trinidad & Tobago, Luis M. Delgado of the Dominican Republic, Stephanie A. Sylvestre and Aileen Neal of Belize, and Richard A. Nixon of Grenada.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Friends of AmericasRelief Team from Kraft Foods, Ingram Micro, Seaboard Marine, Lucent Technologies, and many other companies participated in the event.

THE HOSTS



Carnival Cruise Lines and Carnival Corporation were the perfect hosts; even providing champagne during the reception and a selection of wines for lunch. Representatives included: Edie Bornstein Vice President of Business Development, Joy A. Cadieu Manager of Business Development, and Brendon Corrigan, who provided a special welcome statement, and expressed Carnival's commitment to the Caribbean Basin countries during the lunch.

AmericasRelief Team

AmericasRelief Team is a Florida private sector collaboration of corporations and non-profit organizations created to help our Latin America and Caribbean friends in times of crisis and disasters. AmericasRelief Team reacts to immediate crisis, provides ongoing logistics assistance, and conducts plans for future events in the region which will require effective coordination of humanitarian relief.

Mission

The mission is to have companies cooperating together to maximize international relief in the countries where they do business. Following a crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, the team of corporate partners will work together to assess the damage and effectively channel emergency relief to the most affected areas.

Members

Members include: FedEx Latin America, Carnival Corp., Caterpillar Americas Services, Pharmed Group, POMTOC, Seaboard Marine, Galileo Warehouses, G.O.A.L., Florida Stevedoring, and Lucent Technologies.
NGO Collaborators include: FAVACA, PADF, and Harvest International.

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