

PUBLIC NOTICE



REMEMBERING CUBANA FLIGHT 455

On Sunday 6th October 2016 at the Atrium Piarco International Airport, there was a plaque unveiling function in remembrance of Cubana Flight 455. This day marked the 40th Anniversary of the first act of terrorism against civilian aviation in the western hemisphere.

On a balmy October afternoon in 1976, a DC-8 commercial jetliner carrying 73 passengers took off from Barbados bound for Jamaica. Before arriving in Barbados, the plane briefly stopped in nearby Trinidad and Tobago. There, Herman Ricardo and Freddy Lugo planted two bombs, cleverly hidden inside of a camera and a tube of toothpaste aboard the plane. Ricardo and Lugo disembarked in Barbados, left their checked luggage on flight 455 and flew back to Trinidad and Tobago. Shortly after takeoff, the bombs detonated, tearing the plane into two pieces and sending it plunging into the sea. Ricardo and Lugo former Venezuelan agents, were arrested in Trinidad and Tobago. All 73 souls on-board were tragically lost.

Present at this very important ceremony was the Honourable Minister of National Security, Major Edmond Dillion, Leader of the Movement for Social Justice, David Abdullah, Representatives of the Cuban Embassy and the Representative from Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago ("the Authority"), Duty Manager Hazel Christopher. The Honourable Minister Edmond Dillon was firm in declaring that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will continue to fight against terrorism, and also took the opportunity to recognise the efficiency and vigilance of our local security services in apprehending the persons responsible for this crime.

Mr. David Abdullah also addressed those in attendance. Mr. Abdullah expressed his gratitude to the unwavering support that the Authority gave to this initiative in particular, the General Manager, Mr. Hayden Newton. The Authority is pleased to commemorate the heroism that the Police Officers portrayed on that day, and look forward contributing to the continued stand against Terrorism both locally and internationally.

