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SIR DENNIS BYRON TO HEAD THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, CCJ – At the recently concluded Heads of Government meeting in St. Georges, Grenada, the Caribbean Community Heads of Government accepted the recommendation of the Regional and Judicial Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) that the Right Honourable Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron be appointed as the successor to the Right Honourable Michael de la Bastide T.C., President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), who is due to retire on August 18, 2011.

Sir Dennis Byron’s present assignment is as President of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The actual date of his assumption of office at the CCJ will be announced in due course.

Sir Dennis, who is a native of St. Kitts and Nevis, boasts a judicial career with a solid foundation. Born in Basseterre in 1943, Sir Dennis won the Leeward Islands Scholarship in 1960 and went on to read law at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University from which he graduated with an M.A. and L.L.B. After 16 years of private practice in the Eastern Caribbean, he went on to serve as High Court Judge, Justice of Appeal and then Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. While there, Sir Dennis led the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Judicial Reform Programme, which included the establishment of a Code of Ethics for Judges, the implementation of new Civil Procedure Rules and the establishment of a Judicial Education Institute, among other achievements. His special interest in judicial education activities has led to his appointment as President of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI), a position which he has held since the year 2000.

In 2000, Sir Dennis Byron was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and he was appointed a member of Her Majesty’s Privy Council in 2004.

As the current President of the ICTR, Sir Dennis Byron is responsible for the overall management of the Court and the implementation of ICTR strategic policies, through liaison with Member States and the United Nations Security Council. While at ICTR, Mr. Justice Byron has sat on seven trial benches and served on a number of pre-trial benches.

Sir Dennis Byron has written many articles and publications and also holds the first Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law at Dalhousie University Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission and the Caribbean Court of Justice jointly congratulate Sir Dennis Byron on his appointment as President of the CCJ and pledge their supporting in making his a productive and successful term of office.

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