

# Speeches

October 9th, 2000

## Miller Thanks French Rum Producers

The support given by the French Government and rum producers over the past three years to West Indian producers came in for praise recently from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Billie Miller. Addressing the Third Joint Assembly of Caribbean and French Rum Producers, at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, Ms. Miller said: "This occasion ... provides an excellent and ideal forum for me, on behalf of the ACP, in general and the West Indian rum producers, in particular, to publicly thank the French Government and rum producers for their support ... We could not have accomplished the objectives of our rum industry without that support". She continued: "The success that has attended your efforts at cooperation in promoting your interests has a significance that transcends the industry that you represent. It constitutes a shining example of how industries from small territories with competing interests can find ways to work together and support each other from the inherent difficulties posed by globalisation and international cooperation". The French and Caribbean rum producers who were locked in battle over access to the rum market in the European Union up until 1997, had agreed on a course of joint support and cooperation when their interests were threatened by a deal between the United States and the European Union. **(BGIS)**