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PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

South African Ambassador to Bulgaria Mrs Sheila Camerer presented her credentials to President Georgi Parvanov at 9.30 am on 24th September 2009.

She was accompanied by Thabiso Motau (First Secretary – Political), Mr. Rudi Conley (Corporate Services Manager) as well as her husband.

In the course of a discussion with the President it became clear that an invitation to visit South Africa would receive positive consideration. In his opening remarks (which included a “tour d’ horizon” of Bulgarian - South African relations) the President emphasised that he would have loved to have responded positively to the original invitation which was for last year but for a myriad of reasons he was unable to come. He stressed that reciprocal Presidential visits would kick-start the new status of bilateral relations between our two countries, i.e. at full Ambassadorial level. He stated that Bulgaria was very pleased that after all this time this had happened. He stated that he had enjoyed visiting South Africa when he led the Bulgarian delegation to the WSSD in 2002.

In response Ambassador Camerer referred to President Jacob Zuma’s visit to Bulgaria as Deputy President in 2000 and expressed the hope that he would be able to come for a repeat visit as President during President Parvanov’s term of office.

Ambassador Camerer congratulated President Parvanov on the recent election of Ambassador Irina Bokova as Director General of UNESCO.

She made reference to the FIFA World Cup to be held in South Africa next year and President Parvanov expressed his regret that Bulgaria was unlikely to make it to the competition.