

One of the most important developments during 1969 was the decision to establish the Caribbean Regional Development Bank. At the 1966 conference, it was agreed that there was need of a financial institution to help finance enterprises contributing to the development of the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean as well as projects that would benefit the whole region. The formal instrument that brought the Bank into existence was signed in Kingston on October 18. Canada has agreed to participate in the Bank as a non-regional member and will contribute to the equity of the Bank and to the Special Fund.

As a demonstration of goodwill, and to underline Canada's close relations with the Commonwealth Caribbean, Governor General Roland Michener and Mrs. Michener paid state visits to the four Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean during February and March 1969. Their tour consisted of visits to Jamaica (February 11-15), Guyana (February 15-21), Barbados (February 21-26) and Trinidad and Tobago (February 26 to March 3). In all four countries, Canada's representative was received with typically Caribbean warmth, friendliness and hospitality.

During the year, Canada also welcomed the achievement of new constitutional status in association with Britain by the former West Indian colony of St. Vincent. Canada was represented at the special "Statehood Day" ceremonies by the Honorable Donald S. MacDonald, President of the Privy Council. As an added gesture of recognition, the Canadian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago was concurrently appointed Canadian Commissioner to St. Vincent. A number of distinguished leaders from the region visited Canada during the year. Among these were the Honorable E.M. Gairy, Premier of Grenada, His Excellency Sir Wilfred R. Jacobs, Governor of Antigua, and the Honorable R.M. Cato, Premier of St. Vincent.