



No. 277

December 5, 1991

McDOUGALL HOLDS TALKS WITH WEST INDIAN COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, will hold talks today in Ottawa with the West Indian Commission, which was established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) in 1989. The Commission is headed by the former Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Sridath Ramphal.

"I look forward to exchanging views on the possible integration of Caribbean countries, as well as on ways to reinforce the already special ties between Canada and the countries of that region," said Mrs. McDougall.

The West Indian Commission is mandated to consult West Indians, at home and abroad, and foreign governments on how Caribbean countries can best respond to the economic and political challenges that lie ahead for the region.

While in Ottawa, the Commission will meet the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and Citizenship, the Honourable Gerry Weiner, as well as representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency. It will also meet representatives of the West Indian communities in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874