



communiqué

N°:
No.: 32

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: MARCH 12, 1982

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
TO ATTEND MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE
NEW YORK, MARCH 14-15, 1982

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honorable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he would be meeting in New York on March 14-15 with Mr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds, the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Mr. Jorge Castaneda, the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico, USA Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Ambassador William E. Brock, the U.S. Trade Representative and Mr. José Alberto Zambrano Velasco, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, to discuss the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Dr. MacGuigan recalled that the Caribbean Basin Initiative was not an overall plan for development assistance in the Caribbean Basin area, but was rather a common expression of political will by Canada, Mexico, the USA and Venezuela, to exert their best efforts to stimulate economic and social development in the countries of the Caribbean Basin area by means of bilateral programs of cooperation without military considerations or political pre-conditions and by cooperation with international financial and economic development institutions.

Dr. MacGuigan noted that in the final communiqué of the Nassau meeting the Ministers had "expressed the hope that regional and non-regional governments would, in a similar expression of political will, associate themselves with the promotion of integral and sustained development in the area." Dr. MacGuigan said he and the other Ministers were very pleased that Colombia, a country with important interests in the Caribbean Basin region, had responded positively and that the Foreign Minister of Colombia had accepted the joint invitation to join the other Ministers in New York for the meeting.