

Governor General to visit Greece from May 18 to 20, 1982

The Governor General will visit Greece from May 18 to 20, 1982 at the invitation of President Caramanlis. In his capacity of Head of State, the Governor General will participate in various official events and ceremonies. Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer will be accompanied by the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of State for External Relations. Mr. De Bané will hold official talks with representatives of the Greek Government.

Diplomatic relations have existed between Canada and Greece since 1942, the year when the first Greek Ambassador to Canada presented his credentials. The first Canadian Ambassador to Greece followed suit in 1945. Relations between the two countries have always been close, and the presence of a large Greek community in Canada, numbering about 350,000, has made them more so. The leaders of the two countries have renewed their acquaintances often at meetings of the international organizations to which they belong - NATO, the UN and the OECD. There have also been bilateral visits. The Honourable Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited Greece in 1978, and Prime Minister Trudeau made a brief stopover in November 1980. In May 1981, the Honourable James Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, visited Greece to sign the social security agreement between Canada and Greece. The last visit by a Greek minister to Canada was in May 1981, when the Greek Northern Minister paid a semi-private visit.