

News Release

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State for
External Affairs



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CANADA WELCOMES CUBAN DECISION ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the agreement of the Government of Cuba to grant exit permits to three families waiting to join their relatives in Canada. It is expected that these permits will be granted sometime in May.

"I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Cuba for its humanitarian decision to resolve these long-standing family reunification cases," Mr. Clark stated. "I am hopeful that the one remaining case will be resolved in the near future."

The Cuban decision was conveyed to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean, Louise Fréchette, during her visit to Cuba. The Assistant Deputy Minister was in Cuba to discuss a wide range of bilateral and international issues with Cuban authorities.

While there, she and members of the Canadian delegation met with President Fidel Castro, Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and Vice-President José Fernández.

Discussions were also held with senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party; the National Bank of Cuba; the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; and INTUR, the Cuban tourist agency.

Ms. Fréchette was also invited to address faculty and students of the Superior Institute of International Relations on Canadian policy in Latin America.

"The visit was one of dialogue. Maintaining such dialogue is important at this time of fast and far-reaching change in the world," said Mr. Clark.

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