

new outside donors but also in providing greater precision on the needs of the region, as seen by Caribbean governments themselves. As a result, informal coordination of the efforts of those within the Caribbean and those outside will now be undertaken to promote economic development of this area in a more orderly and effective fashion.

In many respects, Canada's motivation in signing this Agreement today is the same as that which inspired our participation in the Caribbean Group in Washington. Our interest in the economic progress of Caribbean States, both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth, has been evident in the past; but we want to confirm that this interest continues and our new Agreement does just that.

The Agreement comes as a number of new island nations enter history. Dominica recently attained independence, and I take this occasion through my colleague from Dominica to wish the people of his country happiness and prosperity for the future. Several more Commonwealth Caribbean countries will emerge shortly.

Independent they are, or will be, as is Canada, but we are all linked through our Commonwealth association. This association provides an added reason why Canada looks forward