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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO THE CARRIBEAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today he will pay official visits to Barbados, Jamaica and St. Kitts-Nevis, from January 11 to 16, 1981 in response to invitations from the governments of these countries. Dr. MacGuigan will also lead the Canadian Delegation to the second annual Canada/CARICOM Joint Trade and Economic Committee meeting to be hosted by CARICOM in Jamaica on January 15 to 17.

The Canada/CARICOM Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed on January 20, 1979 between Canada and the individual members of CARICOM (Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago). In order to ensure effective implementation of the Agreement and to promote trade and other economic cooperation, the contracting parties agreed to establish a Joint Trade and Economic Committee, which met for the first time in Ottawa November 16-17, 1979 at the level of officials. The forthcoming meeting will be at the level of Foreign Ministers and reflects the priority which Canada attaches to its relations with the states of the Commonwealth Carribean.