



news release

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For release

POLICE ASSISTANCE TO GRENADA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable Elmer MacKay, have announced that Canada will contribute equipment and training to the Royal Grenada Police Force. The Government's decision is in response to a direct appeal by the Interim Government of Grenada for assistance in restructuring the police force following last year's events in Grenada.

The Canadian assistance, to be undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is valued at up to \$800,000. It will be used primarily to install a telecommunications system in Grenada to ensure adequate communications among the various police stations on the island, the neighbouring Grenadian island of Carriacou and police vessels and vehicles. The assistance package also includes the provision of photographic equipment and related technical assistance from members of the RCMP to enable the Royal Grenada Police Force to re-establish its Central Records Registry, the training of six middle-management police officers, and curriculum-planning assistance to the Caribbean Regional Police Training Centre in Barbados, which provides basic training for police forces of the Eastern Caribbean including that of Grenada.

Mr. Clark noted that the maintenance of law and order by a trained, disciplined and apolitical constabulary was a necessary prerequisite for orderly economic and social development to take place, and would be essential to the success of the general elections in Grenada scheduled for December 3.

Mr. MacKay pointed out that Canadian support for the rebuilding of the Royal Grenada Police Force was being provided by the RCMP on a one-time minimum requirement basis and was intended to complement increased development efforts of Canada and other Western countries in Grenada. Mr. MacKay added that, as the Minister responsible to Parliament for the RCMP, he was pleased that the Force's internationally recognized capability was being put to use to help one of Canada's Commonwealth partners.

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