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ADMISSION OF GUYANA

Statement to be made by the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., Q.C., M.P., Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the 21st Session of the General Assembly, in the Plenary Session, on Tuesday, p.m., Sept. 20.

Mr. President, my first words are addressed to you as the newly-elected President of the 21st Session of the General Assembly. Your long and distinguished period of service to the United Nations is fittingly crowned by your election to this high office. I know you will preside over our debates with that dignity and courtesy which distinguishes the people of Afghanistan.

As the representative of Canada it is a great honour for me to welcome Guyana to membership in the United Nations. I am happy to note that the Prime Minister of Guyana, the Honourable Forbes Burnham, is with us for this very important occasion in the history of his country. As the oldest Commonwealth country in the Western Hemisphere, Canada has watched with pleasure the emergence to independence of the new Commonwealth nations in the Caribbean. Guyana, which became independent on May 26 of this year, is the most recent of these. Historically Canada has had a special relationship with Guyana and the other Commonwealth countries and territories in the Caribbean. Trade and economic ties have been of great importance in this respect, but our special relationship has extended to many other fields and has, I think, benefited us all.

Just over a month after his country became independent, the Prime Minister of Guyana joined his colleagues from the Commonwealth Caribbean and the Canadian Prime Minister in a conference at Ottawa to explore ways of giving a new meaning to the traditional relationship which has linked our