

PRESS RELEASE



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CANADIANS TO BE PRESENT AT BARBADOS INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, has announced that Canada will be officially represented at the ceremonies marking the independence of Barbados, November 30, by the Honourable J.W. Pickersgill, Minister of Transport, and Mrs. Pickersgill. The ceremonies will last from November 28 to December 1. Canada has close and intimate ties with Barbados and warmly welcomes its accession to independence and full membership in the Commonwealth, Mr. Martin said.

In addition to Mr. Pickersgill, the Canadian delegation to the independence ceremonies will include Mr. J.R. McKinney, the Canadian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago.

Two ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, H.M.C.S. "Gatineau" and H.M.C.S. "St. Laurent", will visit Barbados during the independence celebrations.

On his return from Barbados the Honourable J.W. Pickersgill has accepted an invitation from President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic to stop overnight on December 1 in Santo Domingo.