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ADMISSION OF BARBADOS

Text of Statement made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Plenary Session on Friday, December 9, 1966, on the question of the admission of Barbados in the United Nations.

On behalf of Canada it is a very special pleasure for me to welcome the Representative of Barbados to this Assembly. Canadian relations with Barbados are marked by a genuine spirit of affection, arising from close ties which Canada has had with Barbados for many years; the Atlantic provinces of Canada in particular have traditionally had a wide range of contacts with Barbados and other West Indian Islands in commercial and other fields. In recent years the increased availability of air transport has enabled many thousands of Canadians to enjoy the opportunity of visiting Barbados and getting to know it at first hand.

Now that Barbados is an independent nation, sharing with Canada membership in the Commonwealth and location in the Western hemisphere, we are confident that the traditional bonds between us will be strengthened. An important step in achieving this goal was the holding in Ottawa last July of a Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference at which Canadian and Barbadian Prime Ministers and their colleagues from other Commonwealth Caribbean countries discussed ways of increasing and enhancing practical co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

Canada is confident that Barbados with its long tradition of parliamentary institutions and its experience with peaceful evolution to full independence, will be able to make a useful and effective contribution to the deliberations of this Assembly. We look forward with pleasure to collaborating with the Representative of Barbados in our work at the United Nations.