



communiqué

No:
No.: 3

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JANUARY 15, 1981

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
HEADS CANADIAN DELEGATION TO CANADA/CARICOM
JOINT TRADE AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (JTEC)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, arrived in Kingston today to head Canada's delegation to the Canada/CARICOM* Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) and to pay an official visit to Jamaica. During the JTEC which will be held at the Pegasus Hotel from January 15-17, Dr. MacGuigan will meet with Ministers representing the Governments of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

At the inaugural plenary of the JTEC, to be held tonight, Dr. MacGuigan will be making a major statement on Canadian/Commonwealth Caribbean relations. During the two and a half days of discussions, Dr. MacGuigan will exchange views with CARICOM Ministers on Canadian/Caribbean trade and investment, financial and technical assistance and industrial cooperation.

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 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.

At the same time as the JTEC, about forty Canadian businessmen and twenty-five Caribbean businessmen will be participating in a "Round Table at the Pegasus Hotel on trade and investment opportunities in the Commonwealth Caribbean". This conference has been organized by the Canadian Association for Latin America and Caribbean (CALA) and the Caribbean Association for Industry and Commerce (CAIC), with the support of the Industrial Cooperation Division of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

- 30 -

* Caribbean Common Market.