

Lester Bryant Bird

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Lester Bryant Bird was born on Feb. 21, 1938. He graduated with a degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1962, where he was an all-American in track and field. He won a bronze medal for the West Indies in the long jump at the Pan-American Games and has played cricket at the international level.

In 1971, Mr. Bird was elected chairman of the Antigua Labour Party, and he remained in that position until 1993. From 1971 to 1976, he also served as a Senator and as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. Mr. Bird held a number of portfolios from 1976 to 1994, including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister. In 1993, he was elected Leader of the Antigua Labour Party. Mr. Bird was first elected Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda in March 1994. Re-elected in 1999, he also holds the Minister of Foreign Affairs post. Mr. Bird has five children.

Fernando de la Rúa

President of Argentina

Fernando de la Rúa was born on Sept. 15, 1937, in the province of Córdoba and graduated from the University of Córdoba law school. After working as adviser to the Ministry of the Interior from 1963 to 1966, Mr. de la Rúa was elected to represent Buenos Aires as Senator from 1973 to 1976.

In 1983, Mr. de la Rúa became Senator for a second time and was nominated for the presidential elections. In 1991, he was elected to represent Buenos Aires as a national deputy. In 1992 he was re-elected as Senator. On June 30, 1996, he was elected chief of government for the city of Buenos Aires.

Mr. de la Rúa was elected President of Argentina on Oct. 24, 1999. He is married and has three children.