



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 74

No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE: OCTOBER 17, 1979

CANADIAN PLEDGES UNDER THE CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CGCED)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, and the Minister of State responsible for CIDA, Martial Asselin, have announced pledges totalling \$10 million for new bilateral development assistance to the Commonwealth Caribbean.

These pledges constitute Canada's contribution under the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED). The CGCED was established under World Bank auspices in 1978 to serve as a mechanism for coordinating and strengthening external assistance to the Caribbean, and for reviewing national and regional activities related to economic development. The second annual meeting was held in Washington in June.

The pledges are as follows:

- (1) \$7 million for Jamaica comprising:
 - (a) \$4 million of a Commodity Line of Credit to be disbursed between now and June 30, 1980; and
 - (b) \$3 million special loan for food to be disbursed between now and June 30, 1980.

This pledge will also count as Canada's contribution to the "Friends of Jamaica" group (chaired by the United Kingdom) for bilateral balance of payments support to that country.

- (2) \$1.5 million for the Leeward and Windward Islands for new projects with disbursements between now and June 30, 1980.

- (3) \$1.5 million to Barbados for a new project with disbursements starting after April 1, 1980.

The specific projects to be funded in the cases of the Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados are to be discussed with the recipients concerned and details announced later.

At the second meeting of the CGCED in June, an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee was established to review and advise on regional proposals prepared by various international institutions. A Canadian representative will participate.

Canada has been, and is recognized as, one of the leading bilateral donors to the Commonwealth Caribbean. Since the mid-1960's, over \$200 million of Canadian assistance has been disbursed to the region. About \$28.5 million bilateral economic assistance and \$7.0 million for a special loan for food were disbursed in 1978-79.