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STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

NOTES FOR A STATEMENT BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
DON JAMIESON,
AT A LUNCHEON WHICH HE
HOSTED IN HONOUR OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS
AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK OFFICIALS,
AT THE MIRAMAR HOTEL, BARBADOS,
JANUARY 17, 1979

I would first like to thank your government for the kind welcome we have received. I want you to know how very much I feel at home here in Barbados. This feeling is due perhaps in part to the fact that Barbados and my home province of Newfoundland are islands which alike share this particular longitude of the globe's surface. We are both island people washed by the Atlantic waves but at this time of year Newfoundlanders would dearly like to use some of your Caribbean waters. This desire is common to hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have to come down here for warm ocean waters.

We--you "Bajans", and we "Canucks" go back a long way together. The early settlement and political development of Barbados, advancing in time with that of Canada, favoured the development of economic and political ties between us. For many years, our relations consisted mainly of a remarkable flow of trade. I refer of course to the traditional carriage of rum, sugar, molasses-dried fish and spars; the days of "wood, wind and water" such was the early underpinning.

Time gave the "Triangular Trade" a romantic aura, particularly in the eyes of those of us who come from Atlantic Canada, and there is no doubt that these exchanges were the source of important benefits in the early decades of both our national lives. Indeed in 1885, Canada's Prime Minister demonstrated our national interest in the Caribbean by appointing a former governor of Barbados, Sir Francis Hincks, as advisor on Caribbean affairs. I like to think that this wisp of history played some part in creating the kind of environment in which we find ourselves today. I can say in all sincerity then, that I am here to affirm and to strengthen ties between old friends.

Mutual respect and long experience give us a rare ease of exchange. In the past few months alone, I have had contacts with Foreign Minister Forde, in Canada and at the United Nations, to compare notes on many topical issues. Prime Minister Adams visited Toronto in November, and found, I trust, his Barbados-born Canadians in good spirits. Only last September, Barbados hosted a seminar in which Barbadians and Canadians together offered their experience in the conduct of international relations to nations shortly to become independent in the eastern Caribbean.

Barbados is the site of a leading regional institution that attracts Canadian admiration, the Caribbean Development Bank. As a leading contributor to the bank's resources, we follow its operations with great interest. We have shared interests, too, in the recently formed Caribbean Group for Cooperation and Economic Development (CGCED) in which we are working together for the good of the whole Caribbean area. We are associated with one another in an another important respect in that we are both Commonwealth nations, a collectivity of growing numbers. The Commonwealth is a very basic and precious part of Canada's heritage. It is an historic institution, one that has demonstrated flexibility despite apparently never-ending change; and it is an institution that gathers about it, its own wisdom and stability. We in Canada have of course also inherited another culture with a richness which serves us well in the Caribbean, whose heritage is also partly French.

The links between your region and my country are indeed many. As you know, Canada and the twelve member states of CARICOM including Barbados will this week sign a new economic agreement. It will have significance for a number of areas, of course, but it should be particularly important in promoting industrial cooperation. The 1925 Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement served us well but today we live in a changed world; and the new agreement envisages new forms of cooperation which-if they are to be successfully developed-will require the combined efforts of governments and their citizens. In Canada, we are anxious to have the full support of our private sector which is well represented in the group accompanying me on this visit.

A "good" agreement must be advantageous to both sides: I am satisfied, as I believe all of the twelve CARICOM government are, that we have negotiated a "good" agreement. I shall not dwell here on its specific content, but I do want to emphasize the significance we in Canada attach to these new arrangements. Quite apart from our traditional ties, we live in a world in which economic interdependence is a reality, not simply a slogan. CARICOM itself is a recognition of this. Equally, the establishment of this new formal link with CARICOM is evidence of Canada's recognition of this fact. The agreement can serve the cause of Canada/Barbados relations directly; and it can also facilitate CARICOM efforts at regional cooperation in instances where it makes sense for all of us to work together.

The last few years have been difficult ones for many of the world's economies. The 1980s, we may hope, will be less difficult in certain respects; but there will decidedly be new challenges. A recent United Nations' study suggests a five-fold increase in world trade by the end of the century--something like 15% of gross world product will then cross national borders, compared with 10% today. Canada and the CARICOM states cannot expect automatically to automatically share in such prosperity. In the modern world, trade is increasingly the product of complex economic relations involving investment, development assistance, the transfer of technology, and the like.

The agreement we sign later this week can be instrumental, in ensuring that by working together we shall share reasonably in this future prosperity, and do so on mutually advantageous terms.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the desire of the government and people of Canada as they take satisfaction from past ties with you which have been so meaningful and contemplate the future of our relations with your nation.