



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Office of the Prime Minister

*Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda*

*Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-3225
pmsecretariat@gmail.com*

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His Excellency Miguel Diaz-Canel
President of the Council of the State of Cuba
Palacio de la Revolucion, Havana, Cuba

Dear President Diaz-Canel:

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to take this opportunity to extend warmest congratulations to you, and to the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba, which is a significant milestone.

Diplomatic relations between our countries were established on April 6th, 1994, under the visionary leadership of the former Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Lester Bird, and the late former President of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro. The decision to establish relations was motivated by their foresight that our friendship would prove to be resilient and fruitful.

Indeed, our partnership has yielded incalculable benefits for the peoples of Antigua and Barbuda, and Cuba. Cuba has provided over three hundred (300) scholarships to Antiguan and Barbudans, transforming lives, and harnessing the potential of youth in key areas such as health, engineering, sports, education and culture.

Over the course of the history of our relations, as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Cuban scholarships became a gateway to higher education for many, bolstering human resource development, and preparing the workforce for a rapidly changing environment.

In addition, Cuba has improved access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services in Antigua and Barbuda through its Medical Brigade. Operation Miracle, a joint initiative between Cuba and Venezuela, allowed Antiguan and Barbudans to receive free surgeries and treatment for a wide array of ocular conditions.

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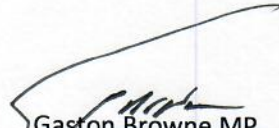
Moreover, when the COVID-19 pandemic cast a dark shadow across the globe, triggering a wave of protectionism in some countries, Cuba did not think twice to extend a helping hand. In a spirit of solidarity, Cuba swiftly dispatched members of its specialized Henry Reeve Brigade to Antigua and Barbuda to provide care and save lives.

As such, I wish to thank the Government and people of Cuba for its ongoing support during a (30) thirty-year continuum. Your Excellency, all of this has been achieved, despite the blockade.

Antigua and Barbuda continues to call for an end economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. We remain resolute that states should refrain from unilateral measures which are not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, as they impede a state's right to development. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of our relations, a resolution reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's robust support for the lifting of the embargo will be presented at the next sitting of our Parliament.

Today, we commemorate the indissoluble bonds between our peoples. We celebrate our pragmatic cooperation, which will continue to reverberate, and have a positive impact on present and future generations for decades to come.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Gaston Browne MP
Prime Minister