

*Government of Antigua and Barbuda*

Office of the Prime Minister

St. John's, Antigua

January 09, 2009

His Excellency José Miguel Insulza  
Secretary-General  
Organisation of American States  
1889F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Excellency:

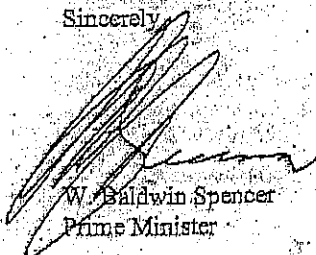
On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and on my own behalf, I have the honour to extend to you and the staff of the OAS my best wishes for 2009.

As you may be aware, general elections are due in Antigua and Barbuda by the end of March of this year. Given my country's strong history of holding democratic, peaceful and transparent elections, we are confident that the upcoming general elections will take place with full respect for the rule of law. Although a date for the general elections has not yet been announced, and having regard for the competence and expertise of the OAS in the area of electoral observation, I wish to extend an invitation to the OAS to send an observation team to Antigua and Barbuda to observe the general elections when they are called.

In order to facilitate the mobilisation of the electoral team within the shortest possible time-frame, I have requested that Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the OAS, Her Excellency Deborah-Mae Lovell, meet with the requisite staff at the OAS and to provide all pertinent information which may be necessary.

In closing, Excellency, I wish to reiterate my Government's commitment to the work of the OAS in this hemisphere. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



W. Baldwin Spencer  
Prime Minister