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Contact: Stephanie Botner
(561) 383-4135

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botner@portofpalmbeach.com
Web site: www.portofpalmbeach.com

**PORT OF PALM BEACH SCHEDULES TRADE MISSION
TO BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – The Port of Palm Beach is planning a trade mission to Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago for Feb. 5-9, 2006, port officials announced today.

The four-day mission is to take place with the assistance of the World Trade Center Palm Beach, as was the case with the port's Feb. 27-March 3 trip this year to the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Unlike this year's mission, which visited Caribbean nations that already are among the leading trading partners of the Port of Palm Beach, the upcoming trip is to a pair of lower Lesser Antilles nations that, while already served by the port through Tropical Shipping, have vast untapped potential for future commerce.

Port officials pointed out that Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago currently get only about 30 percent of their imports from the United States.

The upcoming mission received unanimous support from the Port of Palm Beach District Commission at the board's Thursday, June 23, meeting. Commissioners cited the importance of the port's role in fostering enhanced trade relations throughout the Caribbean region.

In addition to one-on-one interactions between business representatives, the mission is to include meetings among public officials, with formal "sister port" trade relationships to be forged.

Officials of companies wishing to expand their international trade horizons through participation in the mission are urged to contact Lisa Schillig, the Port of Palm Beach's manager of business development at (561) 383-4134. Space is limited.

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