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Caricom presents pan to United Nations

BRIDGETOWN, Cana - The 14-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) will make a steelpan gift to the United Nations in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the world body, Caricom sources say.

The chrome-plated tenor pan, a centre piece of the steelband, is being prepared with the co-operation of the government of Trinidad and Tobago. The presentation will take place at UN headquarters possibly on the morning of October 25.

Sources say the idea of the 22-year-old community making a collective gift to the UN on the observance of its 50th anniversary, was suggested by Barbados' Prime Minister Owen Arthur at the 16th Caricom summit in Guyana last July.

As governments across the region considered what gift to offer, media reports suggested that the steelpan, recognised as the "novel musical instrument of the 20th century", would be the most appropriate gift that is symbol-

ic of the Caribbean. The Caricom Secretariat in confirming the choice of the symbolic steelpan gift, said that the presentation was expected to be made to UN Secretary General, Dr. Boutros-Boutros Ghali, by Caricom's current chairman, Prime Minister Edison James of Dominica.

James will be among the Caricom heads of government participating in a ceremony on October 24 to mark the UN's 50th anniversary.