

3.6.2.9 Canada and Latin America

Canada maintains diplomatic relations with all the Latin American countries through 13 resident missions, some with dual or multiple accreditation. As envisaged in the foreign policy paper on Latin America published in 1970, substantial progress has been made in developing and intensifying relations with these countries and with inter-American institutions.

In 1972 Canada became one of the first nations to be accredited as a Permanent Observer of the Organization of American States (OAS); a Canadian Permanent Observer Mission was opened in Washington under an Ambassador accredited to the OAS. Canada has been a member of five inter-American organizations linked with the OAS — the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrators, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies and the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and has joined the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The most significant Canadian commitment to the development of this region was Canada's accession to full membership in the Inter-American Development Bank in 1972. Canada has subscribed US\$242 million to the Bank's ordinary capital fund, \$40 million of it paid in and \$202 million callable. Canada is also contributing US\$60 million to the Bank's Fund for Special Operations, making a total cash contribution of US\$100 million payable over an initial period of three years. Prior to Canadian membership, the Bank had administered Canadian loans totalling \$74 million for Latin American development over a period of eight years.

Bilateral relations were also intensified with countries in the area. The Canadian program of bilateral development assistance to Latin American countries increased substantially to \$14.4 million in 1973, with \$20 million earmarked for 1974-75. Those countries which most need and can most effectively use Canadian technical assistance are receiving a major part of available resources through sustained programs. Other countries in the region are eligible to receive assistance on an ad hoc project-by-project basis; in 1972 both Cuba and Haiti were included in this group. To concentrate Canadian assistance within those sectors where Canadian technical expertise is most applicable to the region's needs, emphasis has been given to projects in the fields of education, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and public administration. Aid funds are also available through Canadian non-governmental organizations engaged in developmental and humanitarian work in Latin America, and through disaster-relief organizations.

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Canada's trade and economic relations with Latin American countries expanded in 1973. Available statistics show an increase in Canadian exports to \$635 million and imports to \$889 million from their 1972 levels of \$613 million and \$660 million, respectively. This represents an increase of 3.7% in Canada's exports and 34.6% in imports. Approximately three quarters of Canada's exports to Latin America consisted of semi- and fully-manufactured goods. The bulk of Canadian imports from this area consisted of crude or raw materials, in particular oil from Venezuela. The use of long-term financial facilities, extended by the Export Development Corporation, has promoted Canadian exports to Latin America and indirectly assisted Latin American economic development.

3.6.2.10 Canada and Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Far East

Canada and Europe. Canada's relations with Western Europe have developed steadily under the impulse of major Canadian interests in the area. These countries have long been major trading partners for Canada and as a result of its growing prosperity and unity, Western Europe