

A large Ministerial Trade Mission visited Mexico in early 1974 prior to the Second Meeting at ministerial level of the Canada-Mexico Committee in Mexico City. In the autumn of the same year a Ministerial Trade Mission went to Brazil following the visit to Canada of a mission of Brazilian business leaders.

In the summer of 1974, the Secretary of State for External Affairs attended the Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas. His meetings with the President and ministers of Venezuela followed by a visit of a Canadian Ministerial Trade Mission in March 1975 laid the basis for increased exchanges with that country, traditionally a supplier of oil to Canada.

The visits to Cuba in 1974 by a Canadian parliamentary group and a trade and economic delegation and, in 1975, by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce at the head of a group of Canadian businessmen and the visit to Canada of the Minister who is President of the National Bank of Cuba reflected the improved relations between the two countries.

Special delegations represented the Canadian government at the inauguration of new heads of state in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela and a Canadian Minister attended the 150th Anniversary in Peru of the Battle of Ayacucho which marked the end of Spanish rule on the continent.

In the private sector, the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA) in co-operation with the Canadian government organized encounters in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver between Canadian and Latin American industrialists and businessmen.

The number of Canadian tourists in the area has increased greatly and has started to spread from Mexico and Central America southward. There was a growing demand for cultural interchange. More Latin Americans came to settle in Canada and a Seasonal Workers Agreement was signed with Mexico.

In 1974 the Canadian government's bilateral assistance to Latin American countries increased to \$24.5 million including \$2 million disbursed through non-governmental organizations engaged in developmental and humanitarian work. Almost double this amount was earmarked for 1975-76. Aid continued to focus on renewable natural resources, rural community development, public administration and education. 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.

At the multilateral level Canada continued to contribute to the development of Latin America through membership in the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization and the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture Sciences, as well as the World Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and other UN bodies. In addition, it continued to support the integration efforts of the Andean Group (comprising Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Canada is a member also of 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. In 1975 Canada hosted important meetings of some of the eight inter-American bodies of which it is a member.

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 is likely to assume even greater importance. This country maintains close bilateral relations with Britain and France in particular, as well as with most other Western European countries, and has resident diplomatic missions in almost all of them. Canada is also, along with a number of Western European countries, an active member of NATO, OECD and wider international associations such as GATT, the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations and the European Regional Group of UNESCO. In view of the increasing economic and political importance that the Common Market is assuming for Canada, the Canadian government has been discussing with European Economic Community (EEC) member countries means of strengthening its economic relations through co-operation with the EEC in the field of industrial development. The Prime Minister paid official visits to the leaders of the