

In 1975 Canadian investment in the region was estimated at approximately \$400 million; Canadian imports from the region totalled \$184.5 million while exports were valued at \$378.4 million. Canadian bilateral development assistance to the Caribbean, begun in 1958, has averaged approximately \$20.0 million a year in loans and grants in recent years. It has been concentrated in the sectors of education, air transport, water supply and agriculture. Funds have also been made available on a multilateral basis through various organizations including the United Nations and the Caribbean Development Bank.

More than 3,000 Canadians are permanent residents in the region and over 200,000 visit the islands annually. There are Canadian High Commissions in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Barbados, and these four countries and Grenada maintain High Commissions in Ottawa. There is also a Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean in Montreal who represents the five West Indies Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) and Montserrat.

Canada and Latin America

3.6.2.9

Canada maintains diplomatic relations with all Latin American countries through 13 resident missions and dual or multiple accreditation from those missions. In addition, Canada is associated with the Inter-American System through a Permanent Observer Mission to the Organization of American States in Washington and membership or observer status in many Inter-American institutions.

During 1975 Canadian trade with Latin America declined slightly in comparison with rapid growth in the preceding year. The decline was caused principally by economic difficulties experienced by the region because of inflation and, in many countries, the increase in the cost of oil and drops in prices of major export commodities. Canadian imports from Latin America during 1975 amounted to \$1,649 million (\$1,829 million in 1974) while Canadian exports to the area amounted to \$1,257 million (\$1,259 million in 1974). Canadian sales in Latin America in 1975 were nevertheless double those in the Middle East. Canada's trade deficit declined from \$570 million in 1974 to \$392 million in 1975.

In March 1975 the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce led a trade mission to Cuba and Venezuela. Early in the year the Minister President of the National Bank of Cuba paid an official visit to Canada and in September the Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba took part in the initial meeting of the Canada-Cuba Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Relations when a bilateral air agreement was signed.

The growth of Canadian relations with Latin America has led to contacts and exchanges in many other fields. The Minister of National Health and Welfare visited Cuba and concluded an understanding for exchanges in the nursing and hospital fields. There was an exchange of Olympic training teams between Canada and Cuba. The Prime Minister visited Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela at the beginning of 1976.

In 1975, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided \$17 million to Latin American countries, mostly in technical assistance, and committed about \$3 million in matching grants to non-governmental organizations. Canada provided funds for multilateral assistance programs to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and to various specialized technical organizations, including \$7.5 million allocated to the preparation of development projects.

At the multilateral level, Canada is also an active member of many Inter-American organizations, namely: the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IAIAS), the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrators (IACTA), the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS). Canada supports various technical and