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Canadian Foreign Policy

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RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND COLOMBIA

A trade agreement with Colombia ratified in 1977 helped open commercial prospects for Canadian business and since then Canada has become increasingly important as a supplier to the Colombian market. In 1980, Canadian exports to Colombia increased by 90 per cent over those of the previous year to reach a total of \$185 million. Canada imports about 50 per cent of its coffee from Colombia and the country is one of the major recipients of our development assistance in Latin America.

Bilateral Relations

Although Canada and Colombia established diplomatic relations in 1951, relatively little attention was given by either government to developing the relationship until the late 1960s. In 1968, the Secretary of State for External Affairs led a mission, which included also the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and other Cabinet ministers, to Latin America. In 1971 a trade agreement was signed and Canada began providing bilateral assistance through a technical co-operation program in 1972.

The visit of the External Affairs minister in 1977 and that of the Minister of State for Trade in 1979 have further strengthened the relationship.



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