

The second Canada/Mexico Ministerial Committee Meeting took place January 28 to 29, 1974 in Mexico City.

Mexico was represented by: Lic. Emilio O. Rabasa, Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Lic. José Lopez Portillo, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit; Lic. José Campillo Sainz, Secretary of Industry, Trade and Commerce; Lic. Julio Hirschfeld, Director, Department of Tourism; Lic. Julio Faesler, Director General of the Mexican Institute of Foreign Trade; Lic. Gerardo Bueno Zirion, Director General of the National Council for Science and Technology; Lic. Ernesto Fernandez Hurtado, Director General of the Bank of Mexico; and Mr. Rafael Urdaneta, Ambassador of Mexico to Canada.

Canada was represented by: the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs; the Hon. Charles M. Drury, President of the Treasury Board; the Hon. Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce; H.E. Mr. Maurice Schwarzmann, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico; Mr. J.P. Drolet, Assistant Deputy Minister for Mineral Development of Energy, Mines and Resources; Mr. Tom M. Burns, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce; Mr. d'Iberville Fortier, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; and Mr. Claude T. Charland, Assistant Deputy Minister for Export Development, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The Canadian Ministers called on the President of Mexico, Lic. Luis Echeverria, with whom they had a wide exchange of views.

Both Mexican and Canadian Ministers noted with satisfaction the advances that had been achieved in the strengthening of relations between the two countries in the period since the first meeting of the committee, which took place in Ottawa in October, 1971. They particularly noted the state visit of the President of Mexico to Canada from March 29 to April 2, 1973, in the course of which the President and Prime Minister Trudeau agreed to take a series of concrete steps designed to provide an even greater impetus to Mexican-Canadian exchanges in various fields of common interest.

Mexican Ministers welcomed the increased participation of Canada in inter-American institutions, a question which had been examined during the first meeting of the Committee. They expressed their satisfaction that Canada has been admitted as a member of the Inter-American Development Bank and as permanent observer to the Organization of American States (O.A.S.). The Mexican side expressed its hope that Canada would eventually become a full member of the OAS. The Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations outlined for the Canadian Ministers the steps being taken at present for the restructuring of the inter-American system with the view to making it more adequately correspond to the interests of its members. The Canadian side expressed its appreciation for Mexico's interest and stated that it would follow these developments and their implications for the Canadian position.

The Mexican and Canadian Ministers recalled that during President Echeverria's visit to Ottawa, Prime Minister Trudeau had agreed that the preparation of a charter on the economic rights and duties of states was of major importance in the pursuit of international peace and security. The two governments had agreed to co-operate closely in the drafting of this charter. The Mexican Ministers examined with the Canadian Ministers the progress achieved by the group of 40 in its elaboration. In this respect, they reaffirmed the interest of both governments in pursuing their co-operation within that group which will meet in Geneva on the 4th of February and in searching for formulas to reconcile