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Canada-Mexico discussions centre on trade and agriculture

A Canadian delegation, led by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan attended the fourth meeting of the Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee in Mexico City from January 7-9.

Excerpts from a joint communiqué, arising from the meeting, follow:

...The Canadian delegation reiterated its offer to participate in the development of Mexico's nuclear program offering their experience and pointing out the advantages offered by the CANDU system. The Mexican delegation noted this proposal with interest and indicated that international tenders would soon be called.

The Canadian delegation announced that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited intends to open an office in Mexico City to co-operate with Mexican authorities.

Both delegations agreed that there was the possibility of co-operation in this sector which will take into account the basic objectives of Mexico in the form of technological transfers, creation of joint ventures, Mexicanization and financing.

In this sector, the ministers attached importance to the symposium on nuclear energy sponsored by the Mexican Academy of Engineers which will be opened by Ministers Oteyza and Lumley on February 2 in Mexico City.

The ministers welcomed the Mexican and Canadian governments' announcement of an early signing of a technical agreement between Hydro Quebec and the Federal Electrical Commission (CFE) with regard to electric power generation and the long-distance transmission of electric power. Further, they noted with satisfaction the fact that CFE and Ontario Hydro expect to sign a similar agreement soon.

The subject of metallurgical coal was accorded considerable importance in light of the significant expansion of the Mexican steel industry in the near future. Presently known Mexican reserves are insufficient to meet current needs and thus Canadian co-operation is required in two main areas:

— joint co-operation in exploration in order to increase national production of

coking coal; and

— a secure supply of Canadian coal by means of a medium term supply contract.

The Canadian delegation expressed its interest in this proposal, and noted its international expertise in this sector and indicated that, as soon as possible, it will determine the possibility of signing contracts in this regard.

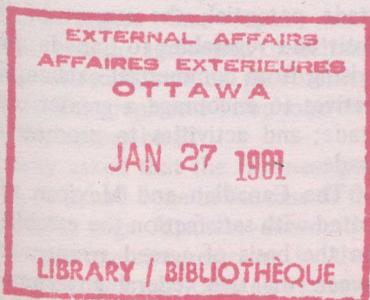
Further, both delegations confirmed that a joint seminar on thermal and coking coal will take place next February.

The Mexican delegation considered that good long-term possibilities exist for joint co-operation in mass urban transport and the rationalization of the transportation system in Mexico City and in other cities. In this regard, a joint committee exists which is working in this sector.

Crude oil trade

The ministers discussed the trade of crude oil between Mexico and Canada. Both delegations were pleased with the progress in the discussions between Naviera

The Canadian delegation included Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, Energy Minister Marc Lalonde, Minister of State for Trade Edward Lumley and Canadian Ambassador to Mexico Claude Charland. The Mexican delegation, led by Secretary of External Relations Jorge Castañeda, included Secretary of Patrimony (Natural Resources) José Andrés de Oteyza, Secretary of Commerce Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, Secretary of Agriculture Francisco Merino Rábago and Mexican Ambassador to Canada Augustín Barrios Gómez. During their visit the Canadian ministers also met with Mexican President José Lopez Portillo.



Twenty-nine years ago today...
Viscount Alexander ended his term as Governor General of Canada and returned to Britain; Canadian Vincent Massey succeeded him.

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