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## Canada's growing involvement in the countries of Latin America

The Prime Minister's visit to Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela from January 23 to February 2, 1976, is further evidence of Canada's expanding relations with Latin America. While the Caribbean traditionally has had close relations with Canada, the ties with Latin America have recently been steadily developing - multilaterally, bilaterally and in the area of development assistance.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau will be in Mexico from January 23 to 26, Cuba from January 26 to 29 and Venezuela from January 29 to February 2.

Latin American countries on multilateral questions take place in world forums such as the United Nations Conference on Trade

and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the UN Commission for Latin America.

### Bilateral relations

Canada maintains diplomatic, consular, cultural and trade relations with all the Latin American countries through 13 resident missions and dual or multiple accreditation from these missions.

A program of Canadian bilateral development assistance has grown from \$3.9 million in 1969 to \$24.5 million in 1974.

Canada's relations with Latin America have broadened in the last few years through a growing number of visits. For example, in the spring of 1973 President Echeverria of Mexico visited Canada and signed agreements on an exchange of young technicians and on the work of consular officers. There were ministerial visits to Venezuela that year. In January 1974, there was a Canada-Mexico Ministerial Committee meeting in Mexico, and a trade development mission. Later that year a meeting on environmental matters also took place there. There was a ministerial trade mission to Brazil in the autumn of 1974, a conference of labour ministers in Mexico, and a Canadian minister attended the 150th anniversary in Peru of the Battle of Ayacucho.

A Canadian ministerial mission visited Caracas in January 1975, ministerial trade development missions went to Venezuela and Cuba in March, Canada had ministerial representation at the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting in the Dominican Republic in April, and in the same month, there was a ministerial visit to Cuba.

Raoul Leon, president of the National Bank of Cuba visited Canada in February 1975; and in September, Cuban Vice Prime Minister Carlos Rafael Rodri-

### Multilateral ties

Canada, which has long been a member of a number of specialized Latin American agencies, recently has joined others. In 1972 it was one of the first nations accredited as a Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States (OAS), and a Canadian Permanent Observer Mission was opened in Washington with an ambassador accredited to the OAS. Also, Canada has been a member for some time of five inter-American organizations linked with the OAS - the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administration, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies and the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. It recently joined three more - the Pan-American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Inter-American Development Bank, in which it became a full member in 1972. The Bank is now the principal multilateral channel for Canadian capital assistance. Canada contributed \$100 million over the first three years, a significant increase over the \$74 million it had loaned the Bank for Latin American development in the eight years before becoming a member.

Canada contributes, in addition, through membership in the World Bank, through United Nations bodies, and through support of integration efforts of the Andean Group (comprising Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Consultations with