

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF CANADA AND MEXICO FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

As provided for in Article XV of the Cultural Agreement between Canada and Mexico, signed by both countries on January 25, 1976, the Fifth Meeting of Representatives of Canada and Mexico was held in Mexico City from March 26 to 30, 1984.

The Mexican Delegation was headed by Mrs. Luz del Amo, Director General of Cultural Affairs of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. G.D. Valentine, Director General of the South America Bureau of the Ministry of External Affairs, headed the Canadian Delegation.

A list of the members of each Delegation is attached as Annex 1.

During the opening session, Mrs. del Amo pointed out that this Meeting, being held 39 years after diplomatic relations were established between the two countries and 8 years after relations for cultural and educational exchange were formalized, was being initiated within a framework of trust, friendship, cooperation and political good will. She stated that, in accordance with the 1983-1988 National Development Plan, Mexico has given priority to taking advantage of the potential benefits offered by Canada, in political common interest, economic collaboration and common cultural values. She stressed the value Mexico places on the cultural identity of all peoples, respect for such identity being an inherent element of its foreign policy. Finally, she urged the members of both Delegations to direct these negotiations towards strengthening and consolidating the ties of friendship and cooperation that have traditionally united Mexico and Canada.

In turn, Mr. Valentine noted the significant expansion of political and economic relations between the two countries in recent years and stressed the important role that continuing cultural contact has played in cementing these ties. He pointed out that, as North American neighbours, the two countries share many similarities in their indigenous roots, colonial backgrounds and transformation into modern independent States. Canada has signed only six cultural agreements with foreign countries, one of these is with Mexico. This underlines the importance which Canada attaches to its relations with Mexico, especially in the cultural and academic fields.