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Prime Minister's

Visit

to

Mexico,

Cuba

and

Venezuela

On his return from an 11-day official visit of Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela on February 2, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said he was very optimistic about the prospect of closer relations between Canada and Latin America.

Mr. Trudeau, accompanied by his wife, their youngest son Michel, four months old, an official party and some 50 members of the press, arrived at Mexico City on January 23. They were met by President Luis Echeverria, his wife and senior government officials, and were accorded the sort of official welcome usually reserved for a head of state, including a welcoming address by the President, a 21-gun salute and an inspection of a guard of honour. A fair sized crowd at the airport added its own enthusiastic welcome.

At a luncheon later, Mr. Trudeau, in Spanish, thanked his hosts for the warm reception and outlined some of the topics which he expected to be reviewed in official discussions. Mrs. Trudeau gave an impromptu address to Mrs. Echeverria, commenting on the important contribution women could offer in international affairs. In the

afternoon the President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada presided at a wreath-laying ceremony.

During the next two days, the Prime Minister held talks with the President and senior officials and visited places of interest. His tour of the Mexican Petroleum Institute appeared to arouse significant public interest, receiving extensive coverage on television news bulletins.

At a meeting in Los Pinos on January 25 a cultural agreement was signed in Mr. Trudeau's presence between Canada and Mexico.

Later, the Canadians flew to Palenque, one of the outstanding centres of Mexico's ancient origins, where they visited the archaeological site, then on to Cancun, where the Prime Minister visited an exhibition of Mexican crafts.

Mexico joint communiqué

Excerpts follow from the text of a joint communiqué issued by President Echeverria and Prime Minister Trudeau in Mexico City on January 25:

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Canadian Prime Minister is showered with blue and white carnations and

confetti on arrival in Mexico City on January 23.