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OPENING OF A CANADIAN EMBASSY IN ECUADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada will re-establish an Embassy in Ecuador.

Canada established diplomatic relations with a resident Embassy in Ecuador in the early 1960s. The Embassy was closed in 1970 when austerity measures required the closure of a number of Canadian posts abroad although diplomatic relations continued to be maintained by the accreditation of the Canadian Ambassador resident in Bogota, Colombia.

Ecuador and Canada have consulted closely on Law of the Sea negotiations and international fisheries questions. Ecuador is a member of OPEC and a member of the Andean Pact (Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia) and is playing an increasingly active and important role in hemispheric and world affairs. Ecuador is Canada's seventh largest export market in Latin America (\$49 million worth of exports in 1979 involving newsprint, paper products, asbestos, steel and telecommunications equipment) and is an important supplier of petroleum, coffee, bananas and cocoa and other products to Canada (\$57.7 million worth of imports in 1979). Ecuador's current economic policy envisages a substantial programme of investment and industrial development which will provide excellent opportunities for greatly enhanced trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The re-establishment of an Embassy in Quito will facilitate this development and will also enable better consular and other services to Canadian residents and visitors to Ecuador and to Ecuadorian citizens visiting Canada.