

Conclusion

The next decade presents major opportunities for a broadening and deepening of Canada's ties with Latin America. This will require more than a greater effort by the Government of Canada. Our schools and universities must make more efforts to teach Spanish and Portuguese, and our news media must visit the area more frequently. The Government plans to work closely with individual enterprises. with CALA, the Canadian Association for Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce. All of these are playing such an active and valuable role in developing and enhancing contacts between the business communities in Canada and the various countries in Latin America.

Canada's relations with Latin America need to become less "one dimensional". In economics, trade needs to be supplemented by industrial cooperation and technological exchanges. But our economic links themselves need to be reinforced by greater attention to political relations on both hemispheric and global questions. This will require more contacts, on a wider range of subjects, by both Ministers and officials. These political contacts should provide the framework for -- and be supported by -- closer economic and cultural contacts, both governmental and private.

Ladies and gentlemen, I share your interest in the health, welfare and development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and I think it most important that Canada play its part towards improvement in all three areas. My interest of course, which I am confident you share, is even broader than that because it reflects a concern for Canada's relations with these countries within their regions but particularly individually. It is to the health of Canada's relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and with a particular eye to the future, that I will pay special attention from now on. The health of these relationships must not only be monitored but the occasional malady must be cared for. Even more important, we must actively find ways and means of making Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean healthier in the future than they have ever been in the past.