

Mrs. McDougall had bilateral meetings with many of her Latin American and Caribbean counterparts including the Foreign Ministers of Venezuela, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Chile. This was her first opportunity as Secretary of State for External Affairs to meet them. They discussed OAS issues, the Canadian arms control initiative and bilateral relations. Canada's contribution to the OAS and its enlarged role in the hemisphere during its first year of membership was welcomed by her colleagues.

While in Santiago, Mrs. McDougall and Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting up a Joint Canada-Chile Economic and Trade Council to intensify economic relationships and to encourage two-way investment. "I see an increasingly important economic relationship developing between Chile and Canada. It will offer substantial benefits to both our economies," said the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In her speech to the General Assembly today, Mrs. McDougall pointed to the important political and economic changes throughout the hemisphere but highlighted the need for the OAS to work vigorously to consolidate democracy, to promote human rights and to address problems related to the environment, drug trafficking and economic development.

"The OAS is becoming a stronger Organization. It is dealing with today's issues -- democracy, human rights, arms proliferation and the environment. Canada's membership has given us a voice and an important role in the issues affecting our hemisphere," Mrs. McDougall said on leaving Santiago.

Minister McDougall arrives in Copenhagen, Denmark, tomorrow to attend the NATO North Atlantic Council Meeting of Foreign Ministers, June 6 and 7.

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