

Canadian Foreign Policy

TEXTS

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RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND VENEZUELA

Venezuela, Canada's largest export market in Latin America, supplies significant quantities of our imported oil. Over the period 1971-79, bilateral trade increased three-fold to \$2.2 billion, with the increased value largely due to higher oil prices.

Bilateral Relations

Canada and Venezuela established diplomatic relations in 1953 and contacts at the ministerial level began to increase in the mid-1970s. In 1974 the Canadian Ministers of External Affairs and Regional Economic Expansion met with President Perez and their Venezuelan counterparts. Prime Minister Trudeau's official visit to Venezuela in 1976 strengthened the relationship.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Zambrano visited Canada early in 1981 and Canadian Trade Minister, Lumley went to Venezuela in July of that year to inaugurate Telidon, Canada's two-way television technology. During Mr. Zambrano's visit to Canada it was agreed to negotiate a framework co-operation agreement to stimulate more diversified relations between the two countries. External Affairs Minister MacGuigan pursued these discussions during his visit to Venezuela in January 1982 and the agreement was signed by Mr. MacGuigan and the Venezuelan Ambassador to Canada on June 25.

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