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SSEA TO VISIT MEXICO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Marc MacGuigan, announced today that he will be making a brief official visit to Mexico on April 7 to meet the Foreign Minister of Mexico, George Castaneda, to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming visit to Canada of the President of Mexico and to exchange views on Canada/Mexico relations and other international developments of mutual interest.

Canada's relations with Mexico have become increasingly extensive and important and were highlighted in Dr. MacGuigan's recent speech at the University of Windsor. Mexico, for its part, has designated Canada as one of a select few countries with which it wishes to develop closer relations. Mexico is an important market for Canada's exports (\$236,255,000 in 1979) and an important source of imports (\$207,304,000 in 1979) and there is every likelihood that mutual trade will increase substantially. In 1969, Canada and Mexico established a Joint Ministerial Committee which has provided a valuable forum for exchanges at the political level between the two governments. Canada and Mexico also concluded a Cultural Agreement in 1976.