

RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND BRAZIL

Canada already had a presence in Brazil at the turn of the century, when in addition to the numerous missionaries who were there, businessmen began to invest larger and larger amounts, particularly in the sphere of public services. Official relations go back only as far as 1941, however, when Canada set up a Legation in Rio de Janeiro. Three years later the Legation was raised to the rank of Embassy. Our embassy moved to Brasilia in 1972 at the same time as the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we have maintained a consulate in the former capital. Canada also opened a consulate in Sao Paulo in 1947. The two consulates were raised to the level of consulates general on May 20, 1980 in order to reflect more clearly the real importance of the programs carried out by these two posts in a context of increasingly close relations with Brazil.

In 1968, Mr. Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and some Cabinet colleagues visited Brazil on their major tour of Latin America. Six years later Alastair Gillespie, then Minister of Trade, went to Brazil at the head of an important trade mission. In 1976, the Canada-Brazil Joint Commission was set up, with the purpose of promoting commercial and economic relations between the two countries. It met for the first time in Ottawa during the same year, and in Brasilia in April 1978. The third meeting was held in Ottawa on June 23 and 24, 1980. The Commission includes a sub-group on agriculture which met in Ottawa in 1979 and in Brasilia in June 1980. It also comprises a working group on industrial co-operation which met in Brasilia in May 1980.

In 1977, the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, paid a visit to Brazil which was followed in January 1979 by Mr. Chretien's visit in his capacity as Chairman at the time of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank, and in January 1980 by the visit of the then Transport Minister, Don Mazankowski, who signed a wheat sales agreement having a potential value of \$700 million with Brazil. In March 1979, the then Speaker of the Senate, Renaude Lapointe, attended the inauguration of President Figueiredo.

In a speech in Windsor in March 1980, Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs said this about Brazil: "Canada hopes to develop much closer economic, political and cultural links with this thriving country." A few months later, these hopes and intentions began to take concrete form. Quite apart from the raising of the level of our consulates in Brazil, there was the official visit to Canada by the Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister last September 29 and 30. Along the same lines,