

One instrument is trade. We will mount trade missions throughout the region to seek areas for fair and mutual economic advantage - in agriculture, mining, oil and gas, forestry, and telecommunications .

Another is the shared fight against drugs, where we have given \$2 million in equipment to the Colombian drug enforcement agency and provided special RCMP training here in Canada.

A third is issue of debt, where Canada has provided over \$600 million in short-term bridge loans to Argentina, Mexico and Brazil in the lead-up to new agreements with the IMF, and where we chair the support group for Guyana, contributing \$60 million over the next three years to help that country establish a firm basis for future prosperity.

A fourth is peacekeeping, where we will contribute over 100 officers to ONUCA, the UN observer force for Central America, and where we stand ready to assist in Contra demobilization and the monitoring of a ceasefire in El Salvador, should that opportunity arise.

And a fifth is development assistance, where Canada will contribute \$100 million to the re-building of Central America after so many years of conflict.

The sort of building-block approach we will pursue was demonstrated most recently last week, where seven members of the Mexican Cabinet - the largest number to ever leave that country - came to Ottawa to meet with ten members of our Cabinet. The purpose was to lay the foundations for a new and expanded relationship. A number of agreements will be signed when the Prime Minister visits Mexico in March. They range from co-operation in agricultural research to expansion of tourism, from improved statistical systems to expanded trade, from environmental co-operation to joint action in drugs.

Mexico has announced that enhanced ties with Canada are a foreign policy priority. For Canada, a new partnership with Mexico is key to our Latin America strategy.

I would like to turn now to the OAS. The OAS is only one element of our Latin America strategy. That organization will not solve the problems of the hemisphere. Those problems have to be addressed by the countries of the hemisphere themselves. The imperfections of the OAS are but a reflection of the imperfections of its membership.

But the OAS has a role. And that role can be strengthened.

Canada has been asked to contribute to a working group of the OAS to do precisely that.