

on consultations with other countries in the development of Canadian policies towards regional institutions. The perceptions of their Mexican colleagues were especially useful given Mexico's prominent role in these bodies. The Mexican Ministers indicated their willingness to exchange views on hemispheric issues on a continuing basis.

In examining bilateral relations the Ministers reviewed recent developments in the economic and commercial, technology, tourism, consular and cultural as well as political fields.

Mexican and Canadian Ministers noted that even with the increase in bilateral trade, much remains to be done and called for greater and more decisive efforts to accomplish this. The Canadian Ministers complimented the Mexican Ministers on the progress made over the past year which has contributed to improved economic conditions and confidence.

Mexican Ministers explained the development policies and priorities of their government and indicated that they would welcome Canadian participation in those sectors and projects where Canadian experience and expertise could be directly related to Mexican requirements. Particular reference was made to Canadian experience in the transportation (in the metro, suburban and rail areas), energy development, agriculture, fisheries, mining, forestry and pulp and paper sectors which could be brought to bear on specific Mexican requirements and establish the basis for more intense economic cooperation. It was agreed that officials from the two sides would meet early in 1978 to identify specific areas for commercial cooperation and individual projects and further look at opportunities for joint ventures, investment and technical exchange. The Ministers expressed a desire to increase science and technology exchanges.

Ministers concurred that there should be a much greater degree of interchange between Canadian and Mexican business communities (the efforts of the Mexico-Canada Businessmen's Committee were recognized in this context), between officials of both governments, and between Ministers themselves. In this regard, it was agreed that industrial missions geared to specific industry sectors would be useful in identifying viable areas in both countries for further economic cooperation.

Ministers agreed that Canadian participation in key Mexican projects as well as private investments and joint ventures offered an important vehicle for the intensification of the bilateral economic relationship. They further agreed that such activities, where in the best interests of both parties, should be encouraged whenever possible. They expressed satisfaction over the financial cooperation between the two countries