



Statements and Speeches

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE CO-OPERATION A MODEL FOR THE WORLD

Remarks by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to the Fifth Conference of the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA), Caracas, January 31, 1976.

...The presence here in Venezuela of such a representative group of Canadians is welcome evidence of the increasing, and widespread, serious interest within Canada about Latin America. I'm delighted with that interest and congratulate the organizers of CALA V on the important task they have undertaken.

When the Canadian Government stated in 1970, in its foreign policy review, that it intended to strengthen its links with Latin America in a systematic fashion, one of the objectives specifically noted was the promotion of business associations between the peoples of Canada and those of this continent. No organization is better designed to engage in that activity, and certainly none has proved more successful, than has CALA, the Canadian Association for Latin America. In the four previous conferences of the association, you have carefully examined the "parameters" of the commercial relations and the opportunities that exist for the development of mutually-beneficial relations. In this conference, you are examining "the implementation of the partnership", and I look forward in days to come to hear from your executive of the proposals that have been put forward and the plans formulated.

I put special emphasis on CALA in these respects. I do so not only because of what it does but because of what it is and what it represents. CALA is a singularly Canadian type of association. It reflects accurately the composition of the Canadian economic community. The history of Canada's economy is distinct from that of the United States or Britain or France. It is as distinct as is our political history. We are an independent country (and that requires no emphasis by me or anyone else); we are independent as well in our values, our attitudes, our means of governing ourselves and in our techniques of doing business. Those engaged with us in business or other activities, especially those who may not earlier have had an opportunity to learn about us, are able, through CALA, to learn a good deal about Canada and Canadians. I am confident that the outstanding Canadians who hold memberships in the association and who govern its activities are the best possible persons to acquaint their Latin American associates with a country and a society of which I am very proud.

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