



# communiqué

N<sup>o</sup>: 117  
No.:

August 16, 1985.

## CANADA-VENEZUELA CONSULTATIONS

The Department of External Affairs is pleased to announce that the second meeting of the Canada-Venezuela Consultative Committee is being held in Ottawa 15-16 August 1985. The delegations are led by Ambassador Eduardo Soto, Director of International Political Affairs of the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Michael Bell, Assistant Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Department of External Affairs.

The Consultative Committee was set up following the signing of a Cooperation Agreement in 1982. The Agreement provides for a regular exchange of views between the two countries on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues of interest to Canada and Venezuela.

Both countries are examining opportunities for expanding their exports during the meeting. Venezuela, currently Canada's largest supplier of crude petroleum, is anxious to diversify its range of exports to Canada and Canada wishes to pursue projects in the energy, mining, agricultural and forestry sectors which are of interest to Canadian exporters.

As Venezuela is a member of the Contadora Group, Central America is also a main theme of discussion, with both sides reviewing the current situation and the Contadora Group efforts to bring peace to the region.

In addition, both Canada and Venezuela share concerns regarding the trafficking of narcotics. In view of efforts underway in the United Nations to reach new international agreements to control drug trafficking, the Consultative Committee is discussing prospects for advances in this area during the next sessions of the relevant commissions of the United Nations.