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Prime Minister visits Mexico for talks with the President, 1

Canada-Greece social security pact, 2

Federal government reorganizes, 3

Free trade seen as positive solution to recession, 3

Relief agency founder retires, 3

New embassy opens in Mexico, 4

Computers find hospital staff, 4

Firm does consulting abroad, 5

British Columbia coal company eyes rapid growth, 5

Bangladesh fertilizer project backed, 5

Canada-Germany air pact, 6

Pakistan oilseed aid project, 6

Skier wins in Switzerland, 6

Job bank speeds placements, 6

News of the arts — award, exhibition, foundation, 7

News briefs, 8

Prime Minister visits Mexico for talks with the President

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau visited Mexico, January 13-16, at the invitation of Mexican President José Lopez Portillo.

It was the first meeting of the two this year, though they met three times in 1981. Mexico has become an important partner for Canada and in recent years, there have been frequent high-level exchanges on bilateral and multilateral subjects.

During this meeting, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and focused on international issues such as the North-South dialogue and political turbulence in Central America.

Prime Minister Trudeau and President Lopez Portillo expressed satisfaction with the growth in trade between the two countries. Trade is now valued at \$1.7 billion a year and is expected to keep growing.

During the visit, it was announced that Mitel Corporation, a telecommunications firm from Ottawa, had signed a contract

to sell \$50 million in advanced telephone switching equipment to Mexico.

Joint business ventures

The two leaders discussed further possibilities for joint ventures in the transportation, mining and construction sectors. They also spoke of the possibility of a financial co-operation agreement.

Prime Minister Trudeau also met with Canadian businessmen while in Mexico City. Canadian exports to Mexico in 1981 are estimated to have reached \$720 million compared with \$483 million in 1980. Imports from Mexico for 1981 are estimated at \$1 billion compared with \$345 million in 1980.

A number of joint ventures between Canadian and Mexican companies were started last year including a \$100-million purchase of subway equipment. There are now 120 or more such joint ventures including one for development of a large silver mine which could produce seven



Accompanied by President José Lopez Portillo (right), Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau waves to the crowd at the airport in Mexico while his son Sacha gathers the flowers thrown by the crowd.



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