

The ministers exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Colombian-Canadian Commercial Agreement signed by the two countries in November, 1971. They also indicated their desire for closer links between the private sectors of both countries with a view to creating mixed enterprises as an efficient means of increasing mutual economic and commercial ties.

The ministers reviewed in a general way relations between Canada and Colombia in the fields of tourism and air transport. It was agreed that a further increase in travel and tourism would be a healthy development in terms both of general and of commercial relations between the two countries.

The ministers discussed the present technical and financial co-operation programme being carried out with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and through funds in trust administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and observed that 26 projects were or are being executed in the sectors of hydro-electricity, rural development, food technology, forestry, fisheries, technical education in the mining, fishing and forestry industries. They noted that those projects are worth Canadian \$132.7 million of which Canadian \$53.3 million were provided by Canada through CIDA directly or through IDB and the rest, Canadian \$79.5 million by Colombia.

The ministers also observed that a substantial amount of Canadian co-operation is performed through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which has its regional office for Latin America in Bogota, and noted that IDRC has provided Canadian \$6.4 million to Colombia for 20 research projects mainly for tropical agriculture research at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and for rural development research, and that the Canadian non-governmental organizations jointly with CIDA had contributed another Canadian \$1.3 million for different development projects in Colombia.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Director of the National Planning Department of Colombia, Dr. Miguel Urrutia, signed three new subsidiary agreements for technical co-operation with CIDA for an amount of Canadian \$8.7 million, of which Canadian \$5.9 million will be provided by Canada and Canadian \$2.8 will be provided by Colombia. The following were signed:

- "Professional Training in Furniture and Wood Manufacturing" with SENA,*
- "Professional Training in Fishing and Navigation" with SENA,
- "Technical Assistance for the DRI** Project (Cordoba/Sucre)", for which a loan agreement for Canadian \$13.5 million was signed on the 17th of December 1976.

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* National Training Service. **Integrated Rural Development.