

## GENERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND BRAZIL

There has been a Canadian presence in Brazil ever since the turn of the century. In addition to the many missionaries present, businessmen have been investing more and more in Brazil, especially in the field of public services. Today there are still 200 Canadian missionaries there - mainly in the northwest - and Canadian companies like Brascan, Alcan, Seagrams, Massey-Ferguson and others are very active. Official relations were instituted in 1941, when Canada established a legation in Rio de Janeiro that was elevated to embassy status three years later. Our embassy was transferred to Brasilia in 1972, the same time as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we have maintained a consulate in the former capital. Canada also opened a consulate in Sao Paulo in 1947. These two consulates were raised to the status of consulates general on May 20, 1980 in order to better reflect the importance of the programs in which these two posts were involved as part of Canada's increasingly important relations with Brazil.

The Canada-Brazil Joint Commission was formed in 1976. Its function was to promote trade and economic relations. The first meeting was held in Ottawa that same year, then in April, 1978 in Brasilia and in Ottawa in June, 1980. The fourth meeting was in Brasilia on March 9, 10 and 11, 1982. The Commission included an agricultural sub-group that met in Ottawa in 1979 and October 1981, and in Brasilia in June, 1980. A working group on industrial cooperation was formed and met in Brasilia in May 1980 and in Ottawa in April 1981.

In 1977, a visit was paid by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jamieson to Brazil, which had shown a desire at the political level for closer ties with Canada, which was growing in importance on the world scene. Subsequently, mainly by reason of the elections held in both countries, relations slackened off. In January 1979 Mr. Chrétien, the Finance Minister at the time, visited Brazil as the Chairman in office of the Interamerican Development Bank's board of directors, and in January 1980 Mr. Mazankowski travelled to Brazil to close a wheat sale valued at up to \$700 million. Meantime, in March 1979 the President of the Senate represented the Canadian government at the time of President Figueiredo's investiture.

Referring to Brazil, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan said in his first speech in March 1980 that Canada hoped to develop much closer economic, political and cultural ties with this vigorous country. A few short months later, these intentions began to take shape. The status of our Brazilian consulates was raised, and the Brazilian foreign minister visited Canada on September 29 and 30, 1980. The Prime Minister visited Brazil in January 1981 to discuss North-South dialogue and bilateral relations, and Mr. MacGuigan visited Brazil in March 1982.

Many additional visits have been made by representatives of the two countries. The Chief Electoral Officer held talks with Brazilian parliamentarians in May 1980. The Speaker of the House of Commons and a delegation of MPs and Senators visited Brazil in August, 1980. The Governor of the State of São Paulo visited Canada last June at the