

RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND BRAZIL

Canada's relations with Brazil date to the 19th century, when numerous missionaries were there. Around the turn of the century, Canadian businessmen began to invest heavily, particularly in the sphere of public services. Official relations go back only as far as 1941, however, when Canada set up a Legation in Rio de Janeiro. Three years later the Legation was raised to the rank of Embassy. The Canadian embassy moved to Brasília in 1972 at the same time as the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we have maintained a consulate in the former capital. Canada also opened a consulate in Sao Paulo in 1947. The two consultates were raised to the level of consulates general on May 20, 1980 in order to reflect more clearly the real importance of the programs carried out by these two posts in a context of increasingly close relations with Brazil.

In 1968, Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and some Cabinet colleagues visited Brazil on their major tour of Latin America. Six years later Alastair Gillespie, then Minister of Trade, went to Brazil at the head of an important trade mission. In 1976, the Canada-Brazil Joint Committee was set up, with the purpose of promoting commercial and economic relations between the two countries. It met for the first time in Ottawa during the same year, in Brasilia in April 1978 and again in Ottawa in June 1980. The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Brazilian Foreign Minister will open the fourth meeting of the Committee on March 9, 1982. The Committee includes a sub-group on agriculture which met in Ottawa in 1979, in Brasilia in June 1980 and again in Ottawa in October 1981. There is also a working group on industrial cooperation which has met twice, most recently in April 1981.

In 1977, then Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, paid a visit to Brazil which was followed in January 1979 by Jean Chrétien's visit in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank, and in January 1980 by the visit of then Transport Minister Don Mazankowski, who signed a wheat sale agreement having a potential value of \$700 million. In March 1979, then Speaker of the Senate Renaude Lapointe, attended the inauguration of President Figueiredo.

In a speech in Windsor in March 1980, Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs said this about Brazil: "Canada hopes to develop much closer economic, political and cultural links with this thriving country". A few months later