

The first meeting of the Canada-Mexico Ministerial Committee was held in Ottawa, Canada, on October 21-22, 1971. The meeting marked the opening of a new phase in relations between the two countries. It revealed a wide range of common interests and identified new opportunities for co-operation between Mexico and Canada.

Mexico was represented by the Honourable Emilio O. Rabasa, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Honourable Carlos Torres Manzo, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Mr. Agustin Olachea Borbon, Chief of the Department of Tourism; Mr. Julio Faesler, Director-General of the Institute of Foreign Trade; and Mr. Rafael Urdaneta, Ambassador of Mexico to Canada.

Canadian was represented by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs; the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce; Mr. Bruce Howard, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce; and Mr. S.F. Rae, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico.

The Canadian Ministers outlined the progress which has been made in implementing the announced Canadian policy towards Latin America. They explained that in the process of deepening and strengthening its links with Latin America, Canada believes that its relationship with Mexico is of special significance. The Canadian Ministers explained Canada's desire to be accredited to the Organization of American States as a Permanent Observer, Canada's intention of contributing as a full