

Both Mexican and Canadian Ministers noted with satisfaction the important role played by previous Ministerial Committee Meetings in strengthening relations between the two countries. During the six years since the First Meeting of the Committee, Mexican-Canadian trade has nearly tripled and a significant number of concrete steps have been taken to extend and diversify the range of contacts between the Mexican and Canadian people as well as between the respective Governments and business communities.

In discussing the world and hemispheric political situations, the Ministers emphasized the principles of legal equality of states, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, peaceful solution of conflicts and respect for human rights both collective and individual.

In reviewing the international environment in which the two Governments pursue their respective policies, the Ministers noted the similarity of their views and complementarity of their countries' interests in many areas of current international concern. They expressed the hope that the growing convergence of opinion among nations would lead to practical measures to reduce the disparities between developed and developing countries. Both the Mexican and Canadian Ministers noted that while the continuing world economic difficulties were an obstacle to early resolution of these problems, much could still be accomplished within the current constraints.

The Ministers underlined their concern over recent developments in South Africa and expressed their support for the arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council. They agreed on the urgency of convening the Geneva Conference on the Middle East and commended the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference in working towards that objective. Ministers expressed their satisfaction with current direct contacts between parties aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace. In reviewing developments at the Law of the Sea Conference, they reaffirmed the strong commitment of both countries to an early and successful outcome to the negotiations and the adoption of a Law of the Sea Treaty. They noted the shared Law of the Sea objectives of the two countries.

At the request of the Canadian Ministers, the Mexican Ministers gave their views on the overall development of inter-American cooperation and integration. They explained their views on the role and importance of the OAS, BID, ECLA, SELA, and other institutions. Satisfaction was expressed over Canada's growing role in the above institutions as an element in developing closer ties with other countries of the hemisphere. The Canadian Ministers stressed the great importance they place