

29, President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela, his wife and Venezuelan officials were at the airport. A red carpet was laid the length of the tarmac.

The Prime Minister was present, as he had been in Mexico and Cuba, at a wreath-laying ceremony that evening and, later, he and Mrs. Trudeau were hosts at a reception attended by heads of diplomatic missions and their wives.

The next day, President Pérez and Mr. Trudeau met for talks, which lasted some two hours. In the afternoon the Canadians visited the National Congress. At a banquet given by the President and his wife, Mr. Trudeau addressed officials, dignitaries and guests, describing Canada's role in the affairs of the hemisphere. He stressed the need for further co-operation between Canada and Venezuela, particularly in the economic sphere.

His speech, and the President's, were broadcast in full on national television. The visit of Mr. Trudeau had received considerable advance publicity in Venezuela; notably, an issue of a leading magazine *Resumen* had been largely devoted to an interview with Mr. Trudeau by the magazine's director, which had taken place in Ottawa the previous week and to articles on Canadian culture and history and economic relations with Venezuela. A TV program on Canada was broadcast the first night of the visitors' arrival in Caracas.

On January 31, Prime Minister Trudeau addressed delegates at the fifth conference of the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA V). He emphasized the importance of promoting closer links between Canada and Latin America, one of the most vital means of achieving this, he said, being the promotion of closer commercial associations.

The banquet given in honour of President Pérez and his wife that evening was chiefly distinguished for being the scene of a song by the Prime Minister's wife — a tribute to Mrs. Pérez for her work in social reform.

On February 1, the Prime Minister and his party visited Camp Ucaima, a private development in the Venezuelan jungle, where they lunched and were shown some of the flora and fauna of the region. The return flight took in some spectacular natural features, including Angel Falls, the highest in the

world, which involved some impressive aeronautical acrobatics as the aircraft soared low down to a ravine known as Devils' Canyon.

On his last day in Venezuela, the Prime Minister again met President Pérez for discussions, following which a joint *communiqué* was read and signed by the two. Later, the Prime Minister gave a press conference and visited the Canadian Embassy. At the airport, *en route* for Canada, the party were received by President and Mrs. Pérez before the official departure ceremony.

Venezuela joint communiqué

Excerpts follow from the text of the joint *communiqué* signed by President Pérez and Prime Minister Trudeau in Caracas on February 2:

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"In their conversations, the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of Canada analyzed various aspects of the current international situation, giving special emphasis to those which have particular interest either with respect to hemispheric relations or those of a bilateral nature. They agreed with satisfaction that the relations between Venezuela and Canada have experienced substantial growth and they expressed their conviction that this visit has strengthened

the desire of the respective governments to diversify these relations with a view to arriving at a new partnership attuned to the position of both countries in the western hemisphere and in the world.

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"The two leaders agreed on the importance which the Latin American Economic System (SELA) might acquire for the adequate channelling of economic and technological co-operation with the countries of the region and in particular for identifying and implementing projects and programs of interest to their further economic and social development.

"The two leaders were agreed on the need to preserve the marine environment which constitutes the heritage of future generations and is vital to the very survival of the human race; to develop the utilization of the sea and ocean spaces in a spirit of justice and equality that takes into account the notion that the resources of the sea beyond the areas of national jurisdiction constitute a common patrimony of mankind; and to preserve the living resources of the sea. Conscious of the need to preserve the legitimate rights of coastal states, including their rights over fisheries, and to harmonize them with the interests of the international community, they agreed to co-operate



President Pérez and Mrs. Pérez of Venezuela (right) meet Prime Minister

Trudeau and his wife on arrival in Caracas on January 29.

UPI photo