

army mutiny in December 1988. During this latter crisis, Canada conveyed a message of support to the Argentine government, which was much appreciated.

The bilateral relationship continued to grow, fostered by initiatives such as the Canada-Argentina Joint Economic Commission, which held its second meeting in Ottawa in July 1988. The Commission reviewed economic and trade policies facilitating co-operation in many fields, notably agriculture, energy, forestry and biotechnological research. CIDA also approved a professional visits program to encourage the exchange of information between Canadian and Argentinian academics, technicians and professionals as well as non-governmental organizations.

The return to democratic civilian government in Chile moved a step closer in October, when a majority of voters in a national plebiscite refused to renew General Augusto Pinochet's presidential mandate. The Chilean economy continued to strengthen and grow, with the highest rate of foreign investment in Latin America. Bilateral trade between Canada and Chile crossed the \$300 million threshold. Reports of human rights violations continued to be of concern and Canada has consistently made known to the Chilean authorities the importance it attaches to the protection and promotion of human rights. The Chilean government is committed to hold free democratic elections in December 1989, and Canada has expressed the hope for a trouble-free transition to democratic civilian government.

Mme Sauvé, the Governor General, and Mr. Harvie Andre visited Uruguay during their trip to the region in February. Mme Sauvé's visit marked closer relations between Canada and Uruguay, characterized by increasing trade, an expanded development assistance program, and shared interest in a variety of economic and agricultural issues.

The Andean countries

Bolivia continued to strengthen its economy following the IMF-approved economic recovery plan, realizing some encouraging results in 1988. The country is pursuing a policy of trade liberalization, which focuses on increasing exports. During her visit there in August, Mme Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, ratified a memorandum of understanding for a one-year food aid program designed to generate counterpart funds for use in social development projects throughout the country. In addition, Canada announced a new CIDA program of bilateral assistance to Bolivia, which is already under way.

Efforts to control coca-leaf production in Bolivia met with mixed results last year and the narcotics trade continued to plague the country. On the multilateral level, Bolivia was host for the fifth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission in March 1989, at which Canada offered to co-operate in drug enforcement.

Table 15
CANADIAN TRADE WITH THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA
(thousands of dollars)

	EXPORTS		IMPORTS	
	Percentage increase from 1987	1988	Percentage increase from 1987	1988
The Bahamas	17.7	36 184	-50.5	20 882
Barbados	-2.5	40 054	-68.9	6 577
Belize	21.2	7 355	124.0	13 166
Bermuda	5.9	38 952	-82.3	967
Costa Rica	-9.5	27 851	-19.6	50 838
Cuba	-15.8	224 978	69.1	87 193
Dominican Republic	10.7	60 073	24.6	36 502
El Salvador	48.0	23 105	-3.4	41 686
French West Indies	8.8	7 899	-48.5	366
Guatemala	-8.9	18 392	17.0	38 559
Haiti	-26.2	18 739	-14.0	7 453
Honduras	4.3	19 610	6.5	27 887
Jamaica	33.8	126 353	32.0	150 166
Lee-Wind Islands	-17.3	37 807	20.0	6 630
Mexico	-6.8	486 556	12.4	1 319 782
Neth. Antilles	38.9	14 667	6.6	20 927
Nicaragua	115.7	21 177	125.2	64 537
Panama	3.3	34 936	0.0	30 813
Puerto Rico	6.9	244 564	8.7	246 685
Trinidad and Tobago	-21.2	54 897	53.0	56 395
U.S. Virgin Islands	36.8	6 332	-85.0	8 097
* Other	-	13 085	-	539
TOTAL	-0.2	1 563 566	11.2	2 236 647

*Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, French Guyana, Suriname