

Trade expansion

Trade and economic relations with Latin America expanded during the year. Statistics show that Canadian exports increased from \$613 million in 1972 to \$635 million and imports from \$660 million to \$889 million. Oil from Venezuela was an important factor in the increase in imports. Roughly three-quarters of Canada's exports were semi-manufactured and manufactured products. The majority of imported products were crude and raw materials.

Long-term financing arrangements, provided through the Export Development Corporation, helped promote exports to the area and indirectly aided the economic development of Latin American countries. In 1973 the EDC increased its financial involvement in Latin America by \$300 million over 1972, which should soon be reflected in trade statistics.

Canadian investors were encouraged to consider joint ventures and other undertakings in keeping with the requirements of Latin American countries. Canadian consulting firms were particularly active, and obtained many new contracts. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited won a contract to participate in the construction of a nuclear reactor in Argentina. The Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA), in cooperation with the Government, intensified its trade-promotion activities.

Canada has also co-operated or consulted with Latin American countries on such questions as human rights, the Law of the Sea, fishing rights, environmental protection, disarmament, crime prevention, narcotics control, taxation, statistics, energy, emergency assistance, social security and tourism. An anti-hijacking agreement was signed in 1973 between Canada and Cuba.