

markedly. But with the increase in the flow of goods from Mexico to Canada, and the flow of tourists from Canada to Mexico, it should not be too long before a proper balance is achieved.

Mexico has much to offer the Canadian tourist—a very different culture, a most salubrious climate, fine sea resorts and friendly people. And close to 200,000 Canadians a year make a point of visiting Mexico. It is this increase in tourism, facilitated as it has been by new developments in communications, which has, I am convinced, been most instrumental in bringing about the recent rapprochement at the governmental level. After all, if the people of our respective countries get along together and enjoy one another's company, how can their political representatives dare to do otherwise? Maybe there is something to be learned from that—a truth to be applied to the whole of the global village—that peace can only come from increased communication, not of governments with governments but of peoples with peoples.

In the field of international policy, we have walked the same road as Mexico in our relations with the People's Republic of China. Neither of our nations closed its doors to Cuba when Castro came to power. We have shared a common desire for world peace and the independence of sovereign nations in international affairs. Our views on the law of the sea, on disarmament, on protection of the environment, and the control of narcotics are all very similar.

We both share this continent with the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the world. But we are both agreed that, in spite of our friendship for the United States and in spite of its proximity, we owe it to ourselves as nations to diversify our economic and political relationships with other regions of the world.

It is as a result of all these similar outlooks that I think it worthwhile for us to keep working closely with Mexico. Mexico is our link with Latin America. Over the long haul it may be that we can do something significant towards achieving prosperity in all of the Americas.

Honourable senators, I am left, as a result of my recent visit, with the distinct impression that we are making of a heretofore little-known neighbour a close and valued friend.

The exchanges of technicians and specialists in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and industry, which have gone on for a few years now and have proven quite successful, are to continue. And they will grow, as we learned at the January meeting, to include matters more cultural in nature. As a matter of fact, the Mexican government agreed during our visit to send to Canada in the near future a major exhibition of Mexican art and culture, representing the pre-Columbian to modern periods.

The discussions we had with the Mexican parliamentarians covered trade, tourism, agriculture, and increased exchanges of technicians and technologists. We compared political structures and philosophies, and explained our respective constitutions. We exchanged ideas also on foreign investment and air transport policies.

The Mexicans expressed satisfaction with the initial experience of Mexican seasonal agriculture workers in Canada based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries. But they did have suggestions for improvements in several of the clauses of the agreement, and for overcoming omissions.

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Understandably, the Mexicans would like to see a balance achieved in their trade with us. We explained that we understood their concern and underlined the importance in this regard of continuing discussions at the ministerial and official levels. The consultations we had in January will help significantly in developing greater mutual trust and understanding. We made great strides in eradicating ignorance of one another as nations.

The Mexican emphasis, like the Canadian, seems to be on developing the kind of nationalism that will promote the Mexican economy, rather than point the finger at somebody else as the source of its problems. In other words, Mexico, as I see it, is not on the defensive. It is optimistic, forward-looking, and not the least bit paranoid. It is convinced that its economic success depends primarily on its making the required effort.

Mexico, in its fifth decade of stability, and with 35 years of economic growth behind it, appears to have licked a problem which has scuttled many a Latin American economy. That problem is that sustained growth requires political stability, but the expansion process tends to disrupt the existing social order. In Mexico, that has not happened. The present administration is headed by Luis Echeverria, a Spartan, reformist intellectual, who is youthful, industrious and technocratic. It has vowed to move the republic ahead two decades in its six years in power. And from what I saw and have read, it may well do just that.

Honourable senators, if the goal of these interparliamentary exchanges is to provide us with the opportunity of acquiring a greater appreciation of the other country's problems and aspirations, then this visit was, in my case, a success. I came back with a more profound knowledge of Mexico, and I am thankful for the opportunity of acquiring it. It cannot help but be useful to me personally and as a parliamentarian, and I hope it will be helpful to you that I have made this report.

On motion of Senator Cameron, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, May 6, at 8 p.m.