

REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND CANADA RELATIONS

Bilateral relations are excellent and have been enriched by Argentina's new attitude of cooperation with the industrialised world. Since 1990, the scope of bilateral relations has been steadily growing. A Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA) entered into force in April 1993 and a Double Taxation Agreement (DTA), in December 1994. Air Services and Nuclear Cooperation Agreements have been signed (see LIST OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS). Canada is also very active in the cultural scene, supporting a network of six Canadian studies centres, and a scholarship/academic exchange program. This diversified relationship serves as the basis for further expansion of our trade relations. Although the economic-trade relation between the Republic of Argentina and Canada finds itself at a modest level, it has a significant potential for further development.

Our bilateral relationship has been reinforced by several high-level visits. In 1991, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella, visited Canada. Two years later, there was a succession of important visits: in January, the Argentine Economy Minister, Domingo Cavallo, visited Canada; the April visit to Argentina of a Canadian trade delegation headed by the former Minister for International Trade, Michael Wilson; and two September visits to Argentina by the Deputy Minister for International Trade, Allen Kilpatrick and the Québec Minister for International Affairs, John Ciaccia. In 1994, the highlight was the visit of President Carlos Saul Menem in June, the first by an Argentine President since 1961. In August 1994, the Canadian Minister for International Trade, Roy MacLaren, visited Argentina with a Canadian business delegation. 1995 will start strongly with the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honorable Jean Chrétien, accompanied by Minister MacLaren and the Secretary of State for Latin America, Chrisitine Stewart, as well as an important business delegation of more than 100 companies.

TRADE RELATIONS

In comparison to their respective major trading partners, bilateral trade between Argentina and Canada is modest. Two-way trade between Canada and Argentina was \$251 million in 1993.

Throughout the 1980's, Canadian exports to Argentina maintained a trend of deceleration in growth, then began a process of recovery in 1990, with significant increases during the last two years. In 1993, our two-way trade increased by