

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT
TO AUSTRIA, ALGERIA, NIGERIA,
SENEGAL, BRAZIL AND MEXICO

January 1981

INTRODUCTION TO THE VISIT

The Prime Minister's upcoming trip is an element of the North-South Dialogue, in view of the time at which it will be carried out and the countries to be visited. At the beginning of 1981, the international community will be engaged in a period of intense activity which will lead, in short order, to the beginning of the Global Negotiations on international economic relations (to be conducted within the framework of the United Nations) and to the holding of a North-South Summit slated for June 1981. Further, in July 1981 Canada will be the host of a Summit of the seven industrialized countries which will devote its attention to economic relations between developing and industrialized countries.

The outcome of the Prime Minister's talks with the authorities of the countries visited will have a significant effect on the discussions between the industrialized countries at the Canadian Summit regarding North-South co-operation.

Alongside the North-South Dialogue aspect of this visit, there will also be opportunity to promote Canada's bilateral relations with these countries. This will be the Prime Minister's first official visit to Africa, where Canada has significant interests in terms of development co-operation and of prospects for increased trade. The visit to Senegal will also reflect Canada's interest in La Francophonie internationale. Algeria, Brazil and Mexico are important trade partners of Canada's and are open to increased exchanges. Canada will also discuss with all these countries common concerns of an international political nature such as East-West relations, and the political situation in Africa and Latin America as well as in the West Indies.