

NOTES OF CANADIAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS

Canada exchanged diplomatic representation with Mexico in 1944 when Francisco del Rio y Canedo was appointed Ambassador for Mexico in Ottawa, and Mr. W.F.A. Turgeon was named Canadian Ambassador to Mexico. Our current Ambassador in Mexico City is Mr. S.F. Rae, and the Mexican Ambassador to Canada is Mr. E. Rafael Urdaneta.

The state visit to Canada in 1959 by the Mexican President, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, and the return visit in 1960 by the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. John Diefenbaker, underlined the increasing importance of the relationship to both of the countries. In 1968 further progress toward close collaboration was made during the visit to Mexico of a group of Canadian Ministers, led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp; a joint Canada-Mexico Committee was created for this purpose.

The endeavour to deepen and strengthen Canada's links with Latin America was elaborated in detail in the Latin American sector paper of "Foreign Policy for Canadians" which was published in 1970. An intensification of relations with Mexico and other countries of the region was envisaged as part of this process. Closer association with these countries in an increasing participation in inter-American institutions was also foreseen in the development of a growing community of interest during the 1970's, and the activities of the Canadian Association for Latin America which collaborates with the Mexico-Canada Businessmen's Committee were cited as an example in the private sector of the increasing liaison which is being cultivated.

Trade and Economic co-operation have contributed substantially to the strength and stability of Canadian-Mexican relations. In Latin America, Mexico is Canada's second largest trading partner. Between 1910-1960 Mexican imports from Canada increased by more than six times and during the decade 1960-1970, they almost doubled. In 1970 the total trade between the two countries was valued at \$139 million with Canadian exports amounting to \$91.7 million. The principal exports to Mexico were motor vehicle parts, newsprint, asbestos, wood pulp and skim milk powder; the main Canadian imports were cotton, tomatoes, coffee, fruits and vegetables, and fluorspar.

CP Air has expanded its services to Mexico to include direct flights from Canadian cities to Acapulco and Aeronaves de Mexico has extended its service to Edmonton and Winnipeg in addition to the cities already served: