

At the invitation of the Colombian Minister of External Relations, Dr. Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, made a five-day official visit to Colombia from January 21 to 26, 1977.

Mr. Jamieson was accompanied by Mrs. Jamieson, by Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, M.P., Chairman of the House of Commons Committee on External Relations and National Defence and by a group of senior and government officials representing the Departments of External Affairs and Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Export Development Corporation, the Department of Agriculture and representatives from the Canadian Association for Latin America and the media.

Following a two-day side trip to Cartagena on the week-end of January 22-23, Mr. Jamieson along with members of his delegation paid a call on His Excellency Dr. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, President of the Republic of Colombia. The interview with the President was followed by further working sessions with the Minister of External Relations, Dr. Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, and also by meetings with the Minister of Finance, Dr. Abdon Espionosa Valderrama, the Minister of Mines and Energy, Dr. Jaime Garcia Parra, and the Director of the Department of National Planning, Dr. Miguel Urrutia, and the Minister of Economic Development, Dr. Diego Moreno Jaramillo. The discussions covered a variety of topics of concern to both countries and were aimed at strengthening bilateral relations in various areas and searching out new fields of co-operation. The conversations were marked by a cordial atmosphere, a reflection of the warm and developing friendship between the two countries and proved productive in their examination of common objectives and ways to achieve them.

During extensive discussions on international affairs, the Colombian Minister of External Relations and the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada reviewed a variety of subjects of mutual interest. On hemispheric relations, both countries emphasized their commitment to inter-American co-operation. The Colombian minister outlined current problems and prospects from his country's perspective and welcomed Canada's increased participation in inter-American organizations, and its support for Latin American efforts toward economic co-operation and integration. The Canadian minister emphasized the interest of his country in extending on a pragmatic basis Canadian involvement in inter-American organizations. In the course of their conversation the two ministers noted the great similarity in their views on many aspects of hemispheric affairs and agreed that there should be closer consultations between the two countries in this area.