



Margaret and Pierre Trudeau with Fidel Castro, 1976

A second high point in diplomatic activity between the two countries occurred after the election of a new Liberal government under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in 1993. With the end of the socialist camp in the early 1990s, Cuba decided to open its market to foreign investment and to seek new commercial part-

ners. Canada responded with an active program of diplomatic visits and a renewed co-operation program with Cuba. Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's Foreign Minister, made a high profile visit to Havana in January 1997 and signed a 14 point bilateral co-operation agreement with his Cuban counterpart. Both the President of the Cuban National Assembly, Ricardo Alarcón and Vice-President Carlos Lage made official visits to Canada. The high point of

Jean Chrétien, Carlos Lage and Ricardo Alarcón, 1998

diplomatic exchanges in this period came in April 1998 when Jean Chrétien became the second Canadian Prime Minister to visit Cuba. Prime Minister Chrétien and President Castro signed three agreements covering co-operation in health, sports and audio-visual co-produc-

