

Canada avec chacun des pays visités se trouvent désormais resserrées, ce qui semble de nature à donner une impulsion nouvelle aux échanges canadiens avec ces régions."

The Ottawa Journal in an editorial on February 3, was severely critical:

"Prime Minister Trudeau should have stayed at home. His progress through Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela was an ego-stroking exercise with no discernible advantages to Canada to offset the damage done by the wretched timing of the Cuban visit and his fawning over Fidel Castro.

"The best that the government's apologists for the tour can claim is good intentions in Venezuela to help Canada reduce its balance-of-trade deficit... But the hard economic, geographical and political realities do not change. Canada's prosperity depends as much as ever upon the health of its relations with its traditional trading partners. The rest is nickel-and-dime stuff. ...

"Mr. Trudeau antagonized not only Americans but Latin Americans who have rightly viewed Mr. Castro as the most dedicated exporter of communism to the Western Hemisphere and now to Angola. And for what possible purpose? For what gain to Canada?... He gave aid and comfort to Mr. Castro at a time he needed it. He achieved nothing in return except further diminishing his own standing in the eyes of those who really matter to Canada.

"In all, one of the most embarrassing and counter-productive episodes in Canadian history..."

In Le Soleil (Quebec) of February 6, Gilles Boyer warned against Canada's espousing "l'anti-américanisme assez virulent qui règne en certains pays d'Amérique du Sud", but argued that