

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The Fifth Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee met in Ottawa on November 1 - 2, 1983. The Canadian side was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen. The Mexican side was lead by His Excellency Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, the Secretary for Foreign Relations.

The Canadian Delegation included the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; the Honourable Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture; and the Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade).

The Mexican Delegation included Sr. Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Secretary of Energy, Mines and Public Enterprise; Sr. Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development; and Sr. Horacio Garcia Aguilar, Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Both sides agreed that the Ministerial Committee is a valuable forum for the periodic review and assessment of the state of Canada-Mexico relations as well as for the discussion of the full range of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest and concern.

Ministers on both sides commented warmly on the continuing, mutually beneficial developments in the bilateral relationship. They noted that each country has specifically designated the other as a country with which bilateral relations should be enhanced and enriched. They noted that the number of high level political visits in both directions was testimony to the efforts being made, and to the political will behind this commitment to enhance relations. They agreed that efforts would continue to ensure that this momentum is maintained and that contacts both at the public and the private levels be further enhanced.

Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral trade. They noted that substantial scope continues to exist for further growth of bilateral trade and reaffirmed the priority each attaches to increasing bilateral trade. There is a strong interest in both countries to increase actual levels of trade, particularly with respect to non-oil exports by Mexico to Canada. It was noted that Mexico's import capacity will be enhanced as Mexico's non-oil exports increase. Both delegations agreed to cooperate in resisting protectionist trends in world markets, in particular concerning measures which could offset the comparative advantage implicit in the use of abundant natural resources.

Ministers reviewed the international oil market and agreed that increased contact between consumer and producers could be valuable as a means of improving mutual confidence and enhancing oil market stability. Both Governments expressed satisfaction with the smooth functioning of their state-to-state oil agreement. They noted that the agreement has stood up well to changes in the international market place and that reciprocal trust remained