

deal of effort has already resulted in an increase in participation by Canadian sport teams in dual and multinational competition. The Pan-American Games is only one example.

I would like our students to learn from each other's experience in fields as diverse as agriculture, engineering, archeology, literature and the theatre. In this connection I must mention the admirable efforts of the Venezuelan foundation "Gran Mariscal Ayacucho", which finances no fewer than 450 Venezuelan students in Canada. Moreover, I need not emphasize to an audience such as this the need for a larger number of journalists to cover news events in each other's countries. I would like the major Canadian papers to give greater attention to events in the Caribbean and Latin America, at least by encouraging contributions by stringers or by appointing roving correspondents if the economics won't allow the establishment of permanent regional bureaux. I can assure you that my own department will continue to encourage journalists from the region to become familiar with Canada through our visits program, and I am looking forward to welcoming a number of journalists from both the Caribbean and Latin America later this year.

Our mutual trade has been good, but perhaps you will agree it has not been good enough. Canada's exports to Latin America and the Caribbean in 1978 represented less than 5 per cent of Canada's total exports worldwide. It is obvious that our mutual trade could be vastly expanded and we in this government will be concentrating special efforts to this end.

That is why I welcome and commend the efforts of such groups as CALA, the Canadian Association for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Canada Brazil Chamber of Commerce, and the "Forum Das Americas", all of which have concluded arrangements and businessmen's committees in many countries. I am convinced that the private sector must play a major role and take major initiatives on its own in the conduct of Canada's foreign trade.

Nonetheless, the Canadian government will provide all the encouragement and assistance it can. Canadian Ministers will visit Latin American and the Caribbean countries more frequently. Indeed, my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade, the Honourable Michael Wilson, has already paid two visits to Latin America, and I hope to visit as many of your countries as I can in the months ahead. Similarly, Commonwealth Caribbean Islands will also receive frequent visits as our Finance Minister, Mr. Crosbie, promised recently when he met with his Commonwealth counterparts. My colleague Senator Asselin, who is responsible for CIDA, the international aid arm of the government, will also be visiting