
obvious cultural and linguistic ties — and with Cuba, which is the fourth largest market in Latin America for our exports.

In speaking of Latin America today I have concentrated, deliberately, on the positive aspects and possibilities in our relations. I considered that both desirable and appropriate for this occasion. But there must be no misunderstanding. Canada has a long, proud record of concern for human rights. We are no less troubled today than yesterday with human rights abuses in the world wherever they occur, including Latin America. Such abuses affect us profoundly; and they cannot fail to have an adverse impact on the tone and substance of our bilateral relations. This should not surprise anyone — it flows from the nature of Canadian society and the traditional Canadian respect for the rights of the individual person; and it has been reflected over the years in our efforts to help improve the human condition, through development assistance, the expansion of the rule of law and support for fundamental democratic principles.

As far as Latin America is concerned, I want our friends there to appreciate that respect on their part for human rights is bound to enhance the context within which our relations are conducted, whereas violations, and particularly flagrant violations, of individual rights cannot leave us indifferent. How far Canada can and should go in making its views known is a question to be considered in each case. Our aim in Latin America, and elsewhere, must be to contribute to a genuine improvement in human rights, by private or public means, or both. We should not, however, make public declarations for their own sake, or without regard for their effectiveness in achieving the results we desire. This is an important consideration I intend to keep very much in mind as I examine specific cases in the months ahead.

Conclusion

The next decade presents major opportunities for a broadening and deepening of Canada's ties with Latin America. This will require more than a greater effort by the Government of Canada. Our schools and universities must make more efforts to teach Spanish and Portuguese, and our news media must visit the area more frequently. The Government plans to work closely with individual enterprises, with CALA, the Canadian Association for Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce. All of these are playing such an active and valuable role in developing and enhancing contacts between the business communities in Canada and the various countries in Latin America.

Canada's relations with Latin America need to become less "one dimensional". In economics, trade needs to be supplemented by industrial co-operation and technological exchanges. But our economic links themselves need to be reinforced by greater attention to political relations on both hemispheric and global questions. This will require more contacts, on a wider range of subjects, by both Ministers and officials. These political contacts should provide the framework for — and be supported by — closer economic and cultural contacts, both governmental and private.

Ladies and gentlemen, I share your interest in the health, welfare and development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and I think it most important that Canada play its part towards improvement in all three areas. My interest of course, which I am confident you share, is even broader than that because it reflects a
