

Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama as well as present-day Colombia. By 1903 the other three countries had all seceded. From the late 1940s to 1957, Colombia was wracked by "La Violencia," a turbulent period during which 300,000 people were killed.

A Liberal-Conservative coalition government brought an end to the violence in 1958, with provision for the presidency to alternate between the two parties every four years and for key positions to be equally divided. President Belisario Betancur (conservative) was elected on May 30, 1982. Inauguration ceremonies are scheduled for August 7, 1982.

Prospects for future development of Canada-Colombia economic ties are good. In addition to the already extensive trade and aid, there is strong Canadian interest in participating in such large projects as the El Cerrejon Coal project, the domestic satellite project and mass transit systems for Bogota, Medellin and Cali. Our expertise in agriculture, forestry and hydroelectricity made Canada highly competitive in these fields as well.