

rally, in the Cuban tradition, where a crowd of some 20,000 was assembled to hear speeches by the two Prime Ministers. In a 40-minute address, Prime Minister Castro described the historic relations between the two countries, pointing out the importance of Canadian aid to the country in the post-revolution years in the fields of technological assistance, primarily in agriculture. He stressed the importance of the traditional good relations between the two countries.

Mr. Trudeau, addressing the crowd in Spanish for about 20 minutes, urged a policy of frank communication in international relations. He said that Canada, which was broadening the scope of its international relations, was looking toward Latin America in this regard. He emphasized the growing importance of contacts between countries — economic, cultural and human. The prominent feature of relations between Canada and Cuba, he said, was that they demonstrated the possibility of co-operation and peaceful co-existence despite wide ideological differences, in an atmosphere of mutual respect. His speech was somewhat shortened because of the very hot sun. It ended with the “vivas” which are customary in Latin American countries.

Other activities in Cuba included a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Trudeau during which Prime Minister Castro answered questions from Canadian journalists, a press conference on January 29 by Prime Minister Trudeau and a visit by both leaders to the Canadian Embassy.

Cuba joint communiqué

The following excerpts are from the text of a joint *communiqué* signed by Prime Minister Castro and Prime Minister Trudeau in Havana on January 29:

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“The two Prime Ministers held talks on bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual concern. In the spirit which has characterized the relations between the two countries in recent years, the dialogue was both frank and constructive. They agreed that the relations and talks between the two governments should continue to be imbued with the same spirit and give priority to the search for new solutions in both bilateral and multilateral mat-

ters where the two countries could make a positive contribution.

Trade

“In reviewing the economic relations between the two countries, both heads of government stressed their satisfaction with the development of trade between the two countries as shown by the threefold increase since 1972 in exports from Canada to Cuba and the sevenfold increase in exports from Cuba to Canada during the same period. They noted the active exchange of government and industrial missions which has taken place in the last couple of years, the most outstanding being the visit to Cuba in March 1975 of the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Alastair Gillespie. These visits led to the establishment in Ottawa in September 1975 of the Canada/Cuba Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Relations launched at the time of the visit to Canada of the Vice Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

“Both parts [*sic*] recognized that there were opportunities to further increase and diversify this trade. The Cuban side emphasized the importance they attach to reducing the present imbalance and in particular their interest in expanding their sales of sugar to

Canada. The Canadian side appreciated the Cuban concern while noting that there had been a substantial increase in Canadian purchases not only of sugar but also of other Cuban products. In this context both parts noted with satisfaction the large and rapid increase in the Canadian tourist flow to Cuba.

“The Cuban side reiterated its interest in receiving Canadian products and its favourable disposition toward increasing Canada’s share of the Cuban market. Prospects for an increased trade interchange between the two countries were assessed as most promising given both the potential of the two countries and the spirit in which they conduct their mutual economic relations.

Importance of nickel

“Both parts also expressed their intention to look for new possibilities which will enable them to continue their collaboration in the field of industrial co-operation. Prime Minister Castro spoke of the planned expansion of nickel production in Cuba and stressed the importance of nickel export earnings to the Cuban economy. Prime Minister Trudeau noted with interest nickel developments in Cuba and agreed that opportunities for co-operation in this area should be in-



Prime Minister Fidel Castro addresses a crowd of over 20,000 at Cienfuegos, January 28, as Mr. and Mrs. Trudeau

listen (front row right). Later, Mr. Trudeau spoke to the audience in Spanish for some 20 minutes.

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