

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Mr. Emilio O. Rabasa, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Carlos Torres Manzo, will lead Mexico's delegation to the first meeting of the Canada-Mexico Ministerial Committee, which is to be held in Ottawa on October 21 and 22, 1971. They will be supported by Messrs. Augustin Calchea Borbon, Chief of the Department of Tourism, Julio Faesler, Director General of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute, E. Rafael Urdaneta, the Mexican Ambassador to Canada, and by senior officials of the Mexican Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Industry and Commerce.

The Canadian Delegation will be led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin. They will be supported by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Bruce Howard, the Canadian Ambassador to Mexico, Mr. Saul F. Rae, and by senior officials of the Departments of External Affairs, Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Secretary of State.

The Ministerial Committee was established by agreement between the two governments on November 22, 1968, on the occasion of the visit to Mexico City by a Canadian Ministerial mission headed by Mr. Sharp. The Committee was set up for the purpose of periodically examining matters of interest to both countries in the political as well as the economic and commercial fields. It may also review other questions such as those related to tourism and exchange programmes. According to the terms of the exchange of notes under which the Committee was created, each government is to be represented by senior officials and, when warranted by the occasion or the importance of the matter, by ministers or ministers of state with jurisdiction on the subject.

The main purpose of the meeting will be to deepen and strengthen the relations between the two countries, with a view to intensifying them if possible through increasing trade and cultural exchanges between Mexico and Canada. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to discuss regional and world affairs of common concern.

-- Background notes on Canada-Mexico Relations are attached.