



# Statements and Speeches

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## THE CHARACTER OF CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT WITH LATIN AMERICA

Remarks by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Caracas, January 30, 1976.

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, I can think of no more sincere expression of thanks to you for your gracious remarks than to say how pleased I am to be here in Venezuela, and to be here with my wife and my Canadian associates. The warmth of your welcome, Mr. President, and the warmth of your pleasant climate have combined to give us all a delightful beginning to this official visit.

I hasten to add that none of us had to travel to Venezuela to benefit from Venezuelan warmth. At this moment, in the cold Canadian winter, millions of Canadians are keeping warm through the employment of Venezuelan petroleum products -- tangible evidence of the links between our two countries.

It is my hope that this visit, which is the first of a Canadian Prime Minister to Venezuela -- indeed, the first of a Canadian Prime Minister to any Spanish-speaking country on this continent --, will so emphasize the benefits to be gained by each country from closer association that the term "hemisphere" will gain an enhanced dimension in the eyes of Venezuelans and of Canadians. It is perhaps ironic that, at the very moment that the world is getting smaller, the western hemisphere, in an equally figurative sense, is becoming larger. And it is revealing of both changes that the most intimate relations between Venezuela and Canada are in evidence not here in Caracas, nor in Ottawa, but in Paris at the epoch-making Conference on International Economic Co-operation, where a Venezuelan Minister, Manuel Perez Guerrero, and a Canadian Minister, Allan MacEachen, occupy the distinguished and crucial positions of co-chairmen. That fact illustrates a good deal about our countries and about the world of 1976. Interested as we both are in strengthening our bilateral relations, and determined that that shall take place, we are both equally committed to a functioning international community based on principles of fairness, equity and reason. If the world is going to emerge from its present period of fluidity in a more viable form, as I believe will be the case, then a combination of bilateral and multilateral acts are required. My presence here, Mr. President, is designed to be a contribution in both facets.

It is not by accident that the first visit of a Canadian Prime Minister to a South American Republic should be to Venezuela, the

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