

culminating in the visit to Cuba in January 1976 of Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Accompanied by his wife Margaret and their infant son, Michel, his itinerary included public events in Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago. At the personal invitation of Fidel Castro, the two leaders spent a day together diving and spear-fishing off a key near Cayo Largo, taking Margaret and baby Michel with them. Trudeau was the first leader of a NATO country to visit Cuba since the Revolution and the two leaders spent hours in discussion of geo-political issues. The visit also cemented a series of agreements between Canada and Cuba, including sports and fisheries - both of which became important areas for cooperation in subsequent decades. Despite their differences in political outlook, the two leaders established a close personal and intellectual bond which continued after Trudeau's retirement from political life in 1984, and was sustained during Trudeau's three private visits to Cuba in 1991, 1992 and 1995.

Pierre Trudeau and Fidel Castro, 1976

