

Continental Caribbean and Latin America

Canada maintains diplomatic relations with all the Latin American countries through 13 resident missions and dual or multiple accreditations from these missions, and has a permanent observer accredited to the OAS. The immediate objectives set out in the Government's Latin American policy statement of 1970, which called for "a systematic strengthening" of Canada's relations with Latin America, had been largely attained in 1973. Canadian aims and priorities in the region for the remainder of the decade are now being adjusted and refined; new bilateral programs and projects are being launched; increasing support is being given to institutions fostering economic integration.

In the spring of 1973, the President of Mexico and Mrs. Echeverria visited Canada and signed agreements on an exchange of young technicians and on the work of consular officers. Trade and investment with Brazil continued to expand and information, cultural exchange and technical assistance continued to increase.

There were ministerial visits to Venezuela, a traditional supplier of oil to Canada, which is emerging as a leading economic power in that region.

Following the *coup d'état* in Chile, special provisions were made to set up an immigration program for refugees and other persons affected by the course of events.

Co-operation for development

The main feature of Canadian bilateral co-operation with Latin America continued to be the providing of technical assistance in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, education and public administration. The first projects began in Haiti and Cuba.

Canada has also financed the operations of Canadian private organizations active in social development in many parts of the region. During the year, an assessment was started of results already achieved since the inception of the co-operative program. It is expected that the program will increase steadily from the \$14.4 million invested in 1973 in co-operation with Latin America, taking into account the capabilities and evolving requirements of the countries and regional institutions concerned.

To obtain additional "inputs" concerning the present state of the development process, the President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) held an international consultation in Canada on Latin America and visited several countries of the region.

At the multilateral level, Canada contributed to regional or sub-regional organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Andean Group, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture Sciences (IIASA) and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

Canadian aid to Latin America has likewise been channelled through the World Bank and UN bodies.