

At the invitation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Dr. Mark MacGuigan, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, His Excellency Dr. José Alberto Zambrano-Velasco, made an official visit to Canada from February 4-7, 1981. The two Ministers had extensive discussions during which they reviewed the political and economic relations between Canada and Venezuela and exchanged views on international questions.

2. During his visit Dr. Zambrano paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and had useful and constructive meetings with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Herb Gray, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Marc Lalonde. Dr. Zambrano was also introduced in the House of Commons and later was guest of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Speaker, the Honourable Jeanne Sauv  and attended by members of the three major Canadian political parties.

Bilateral Relations

3. In their review of bilateral relations between Canada and Venezuela the two Ministers expressed pleasure that the relationship is developing on a satisfactory basis. They agreed that the relationship should be broadened and deepened through more frequent and regular exchanges and visits at the Ministerial, official and private levels.

4. The Ministers were pleased to note the significant volume of trade between the two countries in 1980 and they agreed that there was considerable potential for a substantial increase.

5. The two Ministers agreed that officials of both governments should begin negotiation of a Cooperation Agreement which would promote and facilitate the development of closer ties and increased exchanges.

6. The two Ministers also agreed that their governments should establish a mechanism to permit periodic meetings at the Ministerial level to review the state of relations between the two countries and identify areas for cooperation.

7. The two Ministers noted the establishment, on the basis of agreed arrangements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Venezuela, of a Canadian provincial office in Caracas and agreed that it could play a useful role in the development of bilateral relations between the two countries in the specific areas of trade promotion, cultural exchanges and tourism.

8. Both Ministers noted with satisfaction the long-standing and secure oil supply relationship between the two countries and the trend