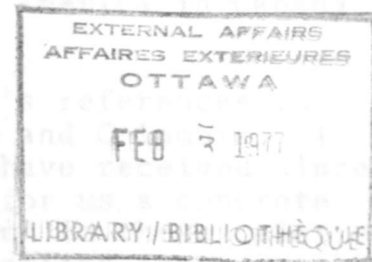


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# STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY  
OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE  
D'ÉTAT AUX  
AFFAIRES  
EXTÉRIEURES.

NOTES FOR A SPEECH TO BE  
DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA,  
THE HONOURABLE DON JAMIESON,  
AT A DINNER TO BE GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR  
BY THE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF COLOMBIA,  
HIS EXCELLENCY INDALECIO LIEVANO  
ON JANUARY 24, 1977

I should like to thank Your Excellency for your warm words of welcome, your very gracious remarks about my country and your flattering references to me. Your remarks about me were especially kind, coming as they do from a man who is not only one of Colombia's major political leaders, but also a skilled diplomat and a leading intellectual. Indeed, your interests, your knowledge and your activities are so all encompassing that you are more a man of the Renaissance than of our own time, with its narrow specializations and limited interests. You are a doctor of law and economic sciences; you have served abroad in your country's foreign service; you have been a journalist; you have been elected to both Houses of Congress and in the midst of all these other activities, you have found the time to establish an international reputation as a historian. Your biography of President Rafael Nunez is a book that professional historians of Latin America in Canada consider essential reading.

I also appreciated Your Excellency's references to the good relations that exist between Canada and Colombia. I might add that the warm hospitality that we have received since we first arrived on Colombian soil has been for us a concrete indication of the significance that you attach to these relations. In a sense, however, I consider that our relations are more than good, they are relations of empathy for we both are democracies concerned with the essential values of political liberty and personal freedom; we have similar social values and we both have played a moderate and constructive role in international affairs. It is because of these bonds of friendship, respect and understanding that I have come here today, for we wish to establish closer relations with you in all areas to the fullest extent possible.

As an indication of our intentions to do so, I have brought with me an extensive delegation representing the Canadian Parliament, the Canadian business community and several government departments. In addition several journalists have accompanied us. I have with me Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons; Mr. Gary German, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Canadian Association for Latin America and Special Assistant to the Executive Vice-President of Noranda Mines Limited; Mr. Frank Clark, Executive Director of the Canadian Association for Latin America; as well as senior representatives of my own Department, the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Export Development Corporation of Canada.

You have well earned your reputation as the Athens of the Americas. You have been able to produce generation after generation of brilliant intellectuals who have been open to the world and have been able to take the best it has had to offer. Both you and President Lopez have in your writings and in your political actions demonstrated a great concern for the social conditions of the average citizen. The Colombia Institute of Social Security antedates the Canadian Medicare programme. The social values that underlie President Lopez' income tax reform and the substantial extensions that have been made to the services of the Colombia Institute of Social Services are ones that have their counterparts in Canada as well.

We, for our part, have benefitted enormously from two cardinal factors in our history - first, that we have never suffered the disruption of our cultural ties with Europe, and second that we possess in Canada two principal European languages and thus we have been able throughout our history to draw from the riches of two European cultures as well as on the drive and the innovations of this hemisphere.

While we have greatly benefitted from diversity of influences available to us, we have been only able to draw on these sources, and maintain the country open to the winds of change that are sweeping the planet because of our commitment to the principles of an open society. Our deeply rooted respect for democratic freedoms and human rights has also been for us a means of dealing most effectively with the linguistic, cultural, regional and social differences within Canada. I would be less than frank with you if I did not admit that it has not always been easy for us to maintain these principles. We have suffered from the stresses and strains that have arisen from the accelerated pace of history in our time. Nevertheless, we are firmly of the belief that the open society, with all the risks that it entails, is, in the long run, the only way of successfully achieving change in stability, as well as promoting unity and prosperity.

As you have written, Your Excellency, Bolivar's vision of a united Hispanic America that would gradually overcome the natural and understandable tendencies towards fragmentation in Latin America has found one of its clearest expressions in the Andean Pact. In principle Canada supports any moves in Latin America towards economic or political cooperation. We have been for this reason a member for some time of the U.N. Economic Council for Latin America; we shall continue to support the Andean Pact and we have offered to cooperate in the technical development projects of SELA (Latin American Economic System); we are willing to look once again at the question of Canadian membership in the OAS (Organization of American States) once the Organization has decided what its future role should be.

At the same time, we attach major importance to bilateral relations, adapted in each case to the specificity of each country. Our desire for closer relations with Colombia is an expression of our belief that the parallels in our development, the common values that we share and the resultant empathy that we have for each other has created a potential for closer collaboration that we should exploit. We are interested in your views on a variety of questions of international relations. In your biography of President Rafael Nunez, Excellency, you place great emphasis on the need for the governors and the governed to recognize the importance not only of rights but also of responsibilities. It seems to me that Colombian foreign policy reflects this attitude in its moderate, thoughtful and balanced approach to the great international issues of the day, such as inter-American relations, the North/South Dialogue, and the Law of the Sea. We look upon Colombia because of its democratic traditions as one of our major interlocutors as we become more progressively involved in the affairs of the hemisphere. We are glad of an opportunity to compare views with you on the evolution of the OAS and the Andean Pact, and the development of SELA.

Outside the framework of the western hemisphere and in the further context of the world at large, we see in you a country that is very much a part of the west, but one whose pattern of development allows it to understand the aspirations of the third world. We too are in a good position to appreciate the aims of the developing countries, because we depend for much of our livelihood on the export of commodities. At the same time, we are also dependent on the import of other commodities, such as petroleum and tropical products, thus, we can understand the need for having commodity arrangements that meet the needs of the consuming, as well as of the producing countries. As the co-chairman for the industrialized nations at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC), we have been working closely with Sr. Perez Guerrero of Venezuela to bridge the gap that at present separates the developed from the developing countries.

At the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva, we have also worked to help the resource exporting countries with our proposal of a complementary negotiating technique known as the "sector approach". Our proposal is designed to provide better opportunities for these countries to produce and market abroad both highly processed commodities, as well as raw materials and, in this way, to achieve a higher degree of industrialization.

We have had development cooperation with Colombia since we first began our bilateral assistance programmes in Latin America in 1972. It is here that we have one of our largest programmes in the region. The International Development Research Council of Canada has its Latin American headquarters in Bogota. It has

sponsored several projects in Colombia, notably at the Centre for Tropical Agriculture in Cali. The Canadian University Service Overseas has many volunteers working here. Other non-government organizations such as the Canadian Foster Parents Plan are also active in Colombia.

Although we have a wide range of interests, it is, I suspect, in economic affairs where there is the greatest potential for collaboration between us. Because of the similarities of our patterns of development, we in Canada are at the forefront of technology in many areas that interest you for development of your economy and infrastructure.

Furthermore, the Export Development Corporation of Canada can provide the credits you need. We are ready to cooperate with you in developing your agriculture. Our companies can work together with you in constructing your hydro-electric dams, in supplying your generators and in building your long distance transmission lines. They can cooperate with you in building your airports and in providing aircraft and engines adapted to the rigours of the frontier such as short take-off and landing aeroplanes. They are ready to cooperate with you in expanding your network of railways even further into new territory, in enlarging your urban transit system, in widening your telecommunications network and in erecting your pulp and paper mills. They are willing to cooperate in exploring for natural resources, whether minerals or oil, whether on land or under the sea, in extracting them, and then in refining them.

We do not expect our cooperation to be only in one direction. The Canadian market remains one of the most open in the world. Our general scheme of preferences provides special tariffs on a wide range of your goods. We are prepared in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations to agree to further liberalization. We hope that on your side you will take our mutual interests into account in developing your economic policies.

In essence, Excellency, there is between us a rich array of possibilities that remain to be explored. We are friends, we share the same values; let us also become closer partners in international affairs, partners in cooperation for development and partners in economic affairs, for we have much to offer each other.