



# communiqué

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## FIFTH CANADA-MEXICO JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, released today the Joint Communiqué signed at the conclusion of the meeting of the Fifth Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee, held in Ottawa on November 1-2, 1983. The text of the Joint Communiqué is attached.

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## JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The Fifth Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee met in Ottawa on November 1 - 2, 1983. The Canadian side was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen. The Mexican side was lead by His Excellency Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, the Secretary for Foreign Relations.

The Canadian Delegation included the Honourable Jean Chrétien, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; the Honourable Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture; and the Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade).

The Mexican Delegation included Sr. Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Secretary of Energy, Mines and Public Enterprise; Sr. Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development; and Sr. Horacio Garcia Aguilar, Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Both sides agreed that the Ministerial Committee is a valuable forum for the periodic review and assessment of the state of Canada-Mexico relations as well as for the discussion of the full range of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest and concern.

Ministers on both sides commented warmly on the continuing, mutually beneficial developments in the bilateral relationship. They noted that each country has specifically designated the other as a country with which bilateral relations should be enhanced and enriched. They noted that the number of high level political visits in both directions was testimony to the efforts being made, and to the political will behind this commitment to enhance relations. They agreed that efforts would continue to ensure that this momentum is maintained and that contacts both at the public and the private levels be further enhanced.

Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral trade. They noted that substantial scope continues to exist for further growth of bilateral trade and reaffirmed the priority each attaches to increasing bilateral trade. There is a strong interest in both countries to increase actual levels of trade, particularly with respect to non-oil exports by Mexico to Canada. It was noted that Mexico's import capacity will be enhanced as Mexico's non-oil exports increase. Both delegations agreed to cooperate in resisting protectionist trends in world markets, in particular concerning measures which could offset the comparative advantage implicit in the use of abundant natural resources.

Ministers reviewed the international oil market and agreed that increased contact between consumer and producers could be valuable as a means of improving mutual confidence and enhancing oil market stability. Both Governments expressed satisfaction with the smooth functioning of their state-to-state oil agreement. They noted that the agreement has stood up well to changes in the international market place and that reciprocal trust remained

the key to a secure and balanced relationship. The discussions on natural gas reviewed prospects for a recovery of the United States market and the plans of both countries for future gas production. Ministers agreed that co-operation in energy trade should be broadened and deepened by exchanges in the fields of oil, coal, as well as information on nuclear technology as economic prospects permit.

Ministers noted the long history of bilateral cooperation and trade between Canada and Mexico in the agrifood sector. With regard to the trade in livestock and livestock products, they agreed that officials from both countries would establish immediate contact to discuss price, quality, quantity and other conditions of purchase of heifers and that this operation would be supported by a program of technical cooperation.

Ministers agreed that trade between Canada and Mexico in agri-food products had not attained the desired levels in recent months due to the difficult international economic conditions. Mexico reiterated its desire to promote increased direct trade of agricultural products between Mexican exporters and Canadian importers.

Ministers agreed that direct trade in fruits and vegetables would be desirable and the Canadian side reaffirmed its offer to train Mexican technicians in relevant inspection techniques.

Ministers renewed the arrangement for the supply and purchase of agriculture commodities.

Ministers discussed the international arrangements governing the tuna fishery. They agreed on the need for bilateral discussions early in 1984 to discuss various fisheries questions, including the conservation and exploitation of tuna and fishing beyond the 200-mile limit above the continental shelf.

Ministers discussed the extradition arrangements between Canada and Mexico. They agreed that existing arrangements are outdated and that procedures leading to a new treaty should be implemented as soon as possible.

Ministers of both sides noted that the Cultural Agreement signed in 1976 remains a satisfactory framework for our cultural relationship and that the next meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Group established by this Agreement is scheduled for March, 1984.

Ministers discussed the current international economic and financial situation, noting that there are early signs of recovery. They agreed it is essential to ensure that the recovery is broadened to provide the full range of markets necessary to enable developing countries to improve their export performance and thus their current accounts position.

Ministers discussed the North/South Dialogue and declared that lack of significant results at UNCTAD VI made it more necessary for both countries to press for progress in the near future. Both countries reaffirmed their

political will to pursue the multilateral approach in tackling the most pressing issues in the international economic system.

Ministers reviewed the situation in Central America. The Mexican delegation outlined recent activities of the Contadora Group and their expectations that the diplomatic efforts would result in some solid progress in the near future. Canadian Ministers were fully supportive of the efforts of the Contadora countries. They declared that Canada remains concerned and committed to a peaceful resolution of the problems in Central America.

The Ministers reiterated their deep anxiety about the situation in Central America. They strongly urge that the commitments undertaken by Central American governments at the Panama meeting in September be reinforced by more far-reaching cooperation within the spirit of Contadora. The Ministers equally urged outside governments to refrain from actions which obstruct the essential process of cooperation, reconciliation and peace in Central America.

The Ministers discussed recent developments in the Caribbean. They noted that the events of recent weeks that culminated in the death of Prime Minister Bishop of Grenada were to be deplored and condemned. Equally they expressed their serious concern about the invasion of Grenada by foreign troops. The invasion of Grenada has reinforced concerns that such conflict aggravates regional and global tensions.

The principles embodied in the charter of the United Nations constitute norms for the international community. The preservation of these principles is in the common interest of all countries of the hemisphere.

Ministers of both Canada and Mexico condemned the use of force in international relations and reaffirmed the need for full respect for the principles of non-intervention, territorial integrity, self-determination and the sovereignty of all states.

Ministers agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee should take place in Mexico during 1985.