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SIXTH MEETING OF THE JOINT CANADA-MEXICO COMMITTEE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Sixth Meeting of the Joint Canada-Mexico Committee was held in Mexico City 3-4 March 1986 under his co-chairmanship and that of the Mexican Secretary of External Relations, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

Both Ministers stressed the importance of the Joint Committee as a mechanism which has been highly successful in strengthening bilateral relations and in identifying new areas for cooperation. During the two days of discussions, the Delegations reviewed the political and economic aspects of the bilateral relationship with particular focus on cooperation in the areas of trade, industry, energy and agriculture.

In addition to the formal meetings of the Joint Committee, Mr. Clark also met with President de La Madrid Hurtado and Secretary of Finance Silva Herzog.

With respect to bilateral matters, the Delegations agreed on the need to promote tourism in both directions and to review negotiations for a possible Air Agreement with this objective in mind. Mexico also confirmed its participation in Expo 86 and in Food Pacific 86. Difficulties related to the administration of the bilateral program of seasonal agricultural workers were considered and resolved. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation in forestry matters was signed.

With respect to trade and economic relations, the Delegation considered the recommendations of the Bilateral Trade and Industrial Cooperation Committee which met in Mexico City in November 1985 and noted the progress achieved to date. In this regard, it was agreed that a number of the recommendations would receive priority attention.

The Canadian Delegation welcomed the decision of Mexico to seek accession to the GATT. Increased Mexican efforts to attract investment, joint ventures and transfers of technology from Canada were also noted and supported, as were intensified export marketing efforts in Canada.

The Delegations considered the difficult economic situation confronting Mexico which has been aggravated by the earthquakes of last September and now by falling oil prices. The Canadian Delegation noted these circumstances and expressed its support for Mexican efforts with respect to its economy and its current international debt situation. The Canadian Delegation announced the signing of three new lines of credit by the Export Development Corporation (EDC) for \$30 millions U.S. with Mexican commercial banks. These lines of credit bring the total financing available in support of Canadian and Mexican commercial interests to \$100 millions U.S.

The current international energy situation was discussed and it was agreed that bilateral consultations were valuable. In this regard, it was agreed that the Honourable Pat Carney, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, will visit Mexico in the near future.

In the multilateral area, Ministers Clark and Sepulveda analyzed the present situation and reiterated their full support for disarmament.

The Delegations of Mexico and Canada examined the prevailing situation in Central America in light of the recent events in the region and of the current state of negotiations. Recognizing the leading role that Mexico plays in the area, Mr. Clark stressed Canada's support for the Contadora peace process.

Finally, Minister Clark and Secretary Sepulveda expressed their strong commitment to the United Nations Organization and their concern for the proliferation of terrorism and drug trafficking.

The Ministers agreed that the 7th Joint Committee Meeting would take place in Canada on a date to be determined.