



No. 159

June 28, 1989.

FIRST MEETING OF THE CANADA-ZIMBABWE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister of External Relations and International Development, on behalf of the Honourable John Crosbie, Minister of International Trade, led the Canadian delegation for the inaugural meeting of the Canada-Zimbabwe Joint Economic Commission which was held in Ottawa, June 27-28, 1989.

The Joint Economic Commission was created with the signing last December in Harare of an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between Canada and Zimbabwe. The decision to pursue a bilateral agreement arose out of discussions between Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President Robert Mugabe during Mr. Mulroney's visit to Harare in January 1987.

"This first meeting of the Canada-Zimbabwe Joint Economic Commission offered us an opportunity to review our commercial and economic relations and to identify ways and means of broadening and intensifying them", commented Madame Landry.

At present, Canada-Zimbabwe trade exchanges remain limited. Canada's exports have averaged \$11 million in the past four years and consisted mainly of wheat, plastic material, construction machinery and equipment, telecommunications equipment and drilling equipment. Zimbabwe exports to Canada have steadily increased in the past four years from \$5 million in 1985 to \$14 million last year. Sugar, tobacco, coffee, ferrochrome and granite are the major export items with smaller quantities of footwear and clothing.

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Minister for
External Relations and
International Development

Ministre des
Relations extérieures et du
développement international

A number of initiatives are already under negotiation between Canadian and Zimbabwean organizations aimed at furthering our exchanges. Among these, the Canadian Exporters Association recently opened an office in Harare with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency. The mandate of that office is to promote and develop industrial cooperation and joint venture projects. "We applaud the recent measures announced by the Government of Zimbabwe to foster domestic and foreign investment in Zimbabwe. These measures will be a positive contribution to the development of our commercial and economic relations" concluded Madame Landry.

"I am very happy with the outcome of this first meeting of the Joint Economic Commission which constitutes an important step in the strengthening of our bilateral relations" added Minister Crosbie.

Mr. Jack Shields, Member of Parliament for the riding of Athabasca and Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable John Crosbie, Minister for International Trade, also met the Zimbabwean delegation which was led by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Oliver Munyaradzi.

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