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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

VISIT TO CANADA OF THE

FOREIGN MINISTER OF VENEZUELA,

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JOSÉ ALBERTO ZAMBRANO-VELASCO

FEBRUARY 4-7, 1981

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

of recent years toward broader energy cooperation. They affirmed their determination to see this relationship continue and agreed that their respective national oil companies could play an important role in expanded energy cooperation.

9. During a meeting between Dr. Zambrano and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, existing and future energy cooperation was discussed. They agreed that the oil supply relationship should remain a central element of bilateral energy cooperation. They noted with satisfaction the existing cooperation between Petro-Canada and Petroleos de Venezuela and agreed that there should be active efforts to strengthen this mutually beneficial cooperation. Mr. Lalonde explained the role of Petro-Canada International and Dr. Zambrano outlined the Venezuelan-Mexican program of energy cooperation for Central American and Caribbean countries.

10. Mr. Lalonde and Dr. Zambrano agreed that there were possibilities for eventual cooperation between Canada and Venezuela in the area of energy assistance to developing countries, especially in the hemisphere, and that these possibilities should be further explored. Mr. Lalonde expressed the wish that there would be an early opportunity to meet the Minister of Energy and Mines of Venezuela.

International Matters

11. The two Foreign Ministers expressed their concern at the increase in global tensions resulting from recent international developments. They pointed out the need to intensify efforts both bilaterally and multilaterally to maintain and ensure world peace.

12. The two Ministers reviewed extensively the current situation in Central America and the Caribbean. They expressed their concern over developments in the region. With regard to El Salvador, they expressed the hope that that nation could achieve peace, democracy and social justice. They also agreed that there should be no foreign intervention.

13. Dr. MacGuigan welcomed Dr. Zambrano's indication that Venezuela was embarking on a far-reaching program of technical assistance to the Caribbean region and informed him of the means by which Canada is seeking to strengthen further its traditionally close relations with the states of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Dr. MacGuigan also congratulated Dr. Zambrano on the establishment of the Venezuela-Mexico oil facility which will do much to alleviate the economic situation in the Caribbean and Central America.

14. The Ministers agreed that Canada and Venezuela should cooperate more closely in the development assistance sphere and, in particular, that there should be more extensive bilateral consultation

on the operations of their respective programs in attempting to meet the economic needs of the Caribbean region, with a special focus on the requirements of the Leeward and Windward Islands. They also undertook to consult regularly in international financial institutions active in the Caribbean and to share information on their respective bilateral development assistance programs in the area.

15. It was agreed that both governments could explore the possibility of cooperation between Venezuela and Canada in providing development assistance in the Caribbean, in the context of development projects in which Canadian and Venezuelan inputs would be complementary and where such cooperation would be welcomed by recipient countries.

16. The two Ministers had a useful exchange of views regarding the North-South dialogue and agreed that both countries would make every effort to bring the dialogue to a successful conclusion.

17. The two Ministers reaffirmed their strong support for the United Nations and the principles of the United Nations charter and agreed that all members must make greater efforts to strengthen its effectiveness.

18. Dr. Zambrano expressed his gratitude to Dr. MacGuigan for the hospitality and courtesies extended to him and his party on the occasion of his visit. He extended a cordial invitation to Dr. MacGuigan to visit Venezuela at a mutually convenient date. Dr. MacGuigan accepted this invitation with pleasure.