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SECOND MEETING OF THE CANADA-BRAZIL
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
BRAZILIA, APRIL 25-27

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

The Canada-Brazil Joint Economic Committee met for the second time, in Brasilia from April 25 to 27. During this meeting, the two delegations reviewed the evolution of Canada-Brazil bilateral relations, identified opportunities to expand trade and industrial cooperation and pursued the mutual objective of closer technical, scientific and technological cooperation.

There was a valuable exchange of views on the current world economic situation and on the multilateral trade negotiations taking place in Geneva. In this context, the committee noted the common position of the two governments on the need for better multilateral cooperation to improve the balance of international trade as well as the importance of achieving satisfactory agreement on both tariff and codes of conduct relating to non-tariff measures. They took note of the importance attached by their governments to the provisions of the Tokyo declaration relating to additional benefits and differential treatment applicable to developing countries.

The delegations exchanged information on the current economic, agricultural, mining and energy situation in each country, outlining their governments' national policies in these areas. They agreed to a Canadian proposal that both countries would examine their industrial capabilities to identify opportunities for expanded trade and industrial cooperation. Officials would then put forward recommendations to the next meeting of the Joint Economic Committee.

It was decided that the working group on agriculture would hold its first meeting in September at a time and place convenient to both parties.

In reviewing the mining and energy sectors, the meeting decided that consultations should continue, to increase constructive cooperation in these important areas. The Brazilian delegation expressed satisfaction at current exchanges in these sectors, noting the forthcoming trip to Canada of a group from Petrobras, which will visit Canadian suppliers of services and equipment for the exploration and extraction of off-shore oil. The Canadians referred to the participation this year of their companies and governments in Energy '78 and in off-shore Brazil.

After a detailed review of developments in bilateral commercial relations, the committee concluded that there was ample scope for a significant improvement in trade between Canada and Brazil and agreed to continue efforts to this end. They will intensify as well their search for opportunities for closer industrial cooperation. They also discussed in a constructive way existing trade constraints that hamper certain Brazilian exports to Canada and the Brazilian delegation expressed the hope that these can be alleviated at an early date. The Canadian delegation noted with satisfaction that there had been some easing in Brazil's import restrictions since the first meeting of the Joint Committee, and expressed its hope that Brazil would soon adopt a more liberal import regime.

Both parties noted their governments' satisfaction with the second Canada-Brazil national programme for technical cooperation, 1977/81, under which 17 out of the programme's 23 projects have already been initiated. Looking to the future, they explored new forms of industrial and other cooperation, some of which might be supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and by other Canadian and Brazilian government programmes. The expertise and resources of the private sectors of both countries should be involved in this through joint ventures, the exchange of technical and consultancy services, and other cooperative efforts.

The delegations agreed that the Joint Committee had fully demonstrated its value as a forum for the discussion of both bilateral and international relations and as a vehicle for identifying opportunities for cooperation in trade, industrial and other economic fields. They noted that the committee's role in these important matters had been confirmed by Foreign Minister Silveira and Secretary of State for External Affairs Jamieson when the latter visited Brazil last year.