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CANADIAN LIBRARY CENTRE IN MEXICO CITY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

In keeping with the intention stated in Foreign Policy for Canadians of increasing the capacity of Canadian information offices to serve Latin America effectively, a Canadian Library Centre was opened in Mexico City on December 2. The formal inauguration of the Library Centre by Mr. Saul F. Rae, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico, was attended by the Minister of Education of Mexico and by leading representatives of Mexican educational and cultural institutions.

The new Library Centre will complement and extend the various services provided in the information and cultural field by the Canadian Embassy and will fill a basic need, as part of the increasing cultural exchanges between Canada and Mexico, in contributing to a fuller understanding in Mexico of creative Canadian writing and of life and thought in Canada. It will contain some 5,000 Canadian books in English and French as well as a number of periodicals and newspapers in both languages. The books and periodicals will cover a wide range of subjects and interests, principally the social sciences, technology, philosophy, art, literature and science. A selection of representative newspapers from a number of Canadian cities will be flown to Mexico regularly to provide a current and up-to-date service. In its initial stage, the Library Centre will operate basically as a reference service for students, educators, civil servants, press representatives and others who wish to consult the selection of Canadian books, periodicals and newspapers available. It occupies premises, with a ground and mezzanine floor, on one of the principal streets of Mexico City and has been decorated to provide an attractive reading room and setting for the books.

Mr. Roland Rainville has recently been appointed to the new position of Information and Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy in Mexico to be responsible under the direction of the Ambassador for the Library Centre as well as for developing all aspects of Canadian information and cultural activities in Mexico.