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VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA  
TO COLOMBIA  
JANUARY 21-26, 1977

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

At the invitation of the Colombian Minister of External Relations, Dr. Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, made a five-day official visit to Colombia from January 21 to 26, 1977.

Mr. Jamieson was accompanied by Mrs. Jamieson, by Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, M.P., Chairman of the House of Commons Committee on External Relations and National Defence and by a group of senior and government officials representing the Departments of External Affairs and Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Export Development Corporation, the Department of Agriculture and representatives from the Canadian Association for Latin America and the media.

Following a two-day side trip to Cartagena on the week-end of January 22-23, Mr. Jamieson along with members of his delegation paid a call on His Excellency Dr. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, President of the Republic of Colombia. The interview with the President was followed by further working sessions with the Minister of External Relations, Dr. Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, and also by meetings with the Minister of Finance, Dr. Abdon Espionosa Valderrama, the Minister of Mines and Energy, Dr. Jaime Garcia Parra, and the Director of the Department of National Planning, Dr. Miguel Urrutia, and the Minister of Economic Development, Dr. Diego Moreno Jaramillo. The discussions covered a variety of topics of concern to both countries and were aimed at strengthening bilateral relations in various areas and searching out new fields of co-operation. The conversations were marked by a cordial atmosphere, a reflection of the warm and developing friendship between the two countries and proved productive in their examination of common objectives and ways to achieve them.

During extensive discussions on international affairs, the Colombian Minister of External Relations and the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada reviewed a variety of subjects of mutual interest. On hemispheric relations, both countries emphasized their commitment to inter-American co-operation. The Colombian minister outlined current problems and prospects from his country's perspective and welcomed Canada's increased participation in inter-American organizations, and its support for Latin American efforts toward economic co-operation and integration. The Canadian minister emphasized the interest of his country in extending on a pragmatic basis Canadian involvement in inter-American organizations. In the course of their conversation the two ministers noted the great similarity in their views on many aspects of hemispheric affairs and agreed that there should be closer consultations between the two countries in this area.

They emphasized the importance both countries attach to the emerging consensus which has been achieved in the Law of the Sea Conference on the sovereign rights of coastal states in and under the adjacent economic zone over both living and non-living resources, and jurisdiction with respect to scientific research and preservation of the marine environment in such areas.

They expressed their concern over the lack of a similar degree of progress on certain other issues of fundamental importance in the Law of the Sea Conference, including in particular the implementation of the principles strongly supported by both countries of the reservation of the sea bed and ocean floor and its resources including, in particular, nickel, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind, for purely peaceful purposes, and the establishment of an international regime, including international machinery, to govern the exploration of the area and the exploitation of its resources, to ensure rational and orderly management and development of those resources and to guard against possible adverse economic effects of seabed exploitation through appropriate production controls.

They stressed also the importance of maintaining the settled rules of international law on the delimitation of marine limits, and the undesirability of introducing uncertainty into the law on these questions.

They expressed their conviction that the conference cannot be concluded successfully without rapid progress on all these issues.

Both ministers expressed pleasure at the prospective conclusion of an agreement for the financing by the Export Development Corporation and the Royal Bank of Canada of gas turbines, electrical generators, sub-stations and transmission line equipment valued at Canadian \$10 million. The project of ICEL is located in La Guajira Region of Colombia.

The visit of the Secretary of State for External Affairs afforded a useful opportunity to review trade relations between the two countries. Attention was drawn to the problem of Colombia's trade deficit with Canada. An examination of the figures revealed that a statistical reconciliation exercise would need to be undertaken. Both ministers expressed confidence that the System of Generalized Preferences would help improve the access of Colombian exports to Canada. With a view to redressing Colombia's trade deficit, the Colombian delegation indicated its interest in better access to Canada under the Generalized System of Preferences and the items of concern to Colombian exporters. The Secretary of State for External Affairs welcomed the decision of the Colombian Government to open a trade office in Canada.

The ministers exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Colombian-Canadian Commercial Agreement signed by the two countries in November, 1971. They also indicated their desire for closer links between the private sectors of both countries with a view to creating mixed enterprises as an efficient means of increasing mutual economic and commercial ties.

The ministers reviewed in a general way relations between Canada and Colombia in the fields of tourism and air transport. It was agreed that a further increase in travel and tourism would be a healthy development in terms both of general and of commercial relations between the two countries.

The ministers discussed the present technical and financial co-operation programme being carried out with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and through funds in trust administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and observed that 26 projects were or are being executed in the sectors of hydro-electricity, rural development, food technology, forestry, fisheries, technical education in the mining, fishing and forestry industries. They noted that those projects are worth Canadian \$132.7 million of which Canadian \$53.3 million were provided by Canada through CIDA directly or through IDB and the rest, Canadian \$79.5 million by Colombia.

The ministers also observed that a substantial amount of Canadian co-operation is performed through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which has its regional office for Latin America in Bogota, and noted that IDRC has provided Canadian \$6.4 million to Colombia for 20 research projects mainly for tropical agriculture research at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and for rural development research, and that the Canadian non-governmental organizations jointly with CIDA had contributed another Canadian \$1.3 million for different development projects in Colombia.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Director of the National Planning Department of Colombia, Dr. Miguel Urrutia, signed three new subsidiary agreements for technical co-operation with CIDA for an amount of Canadian \$8.7 million, of which Canadian \$5.9 million will be provided by Canada and Canadian \$2.8 will be provided by Colombia. The following were signed:

- "Professional Training in Furniture and Wood Manufacturing" with SENA,\*
- "Professional Training in Fishing and Navigation" with SENA,
- "Technical Assistance for the DRI\*\* Project (Cordoba/Sucre)", for which a loan agreement for Canadian \$13.5 million was signed on the 17th of December 1976.

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\* National Training Service. \*\*Integrated Rural Development.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance, Dr. Abdon Espinosa Valderrama, signed a letter of intent to initiate negotiations with the aim of providing Colombia a Canadian \$5 million loan with a repayment period of 30 years including seven years of grace and with an interest of 3 per cent per annum.

The ministers noted as well that the Government of Colombia had presented to date the following requests to the Canadian International Development Agency:

- "Transport studies for the Amazon and Orinoco River Systems" with the Ministry of Public Works,
- "Technical Assistance to the Instituto Geografico Augustin Codazzi for a Pilot Cadastral Project".
- "Development of the Bucaramanga Mining Zone",
- "Integrated Development of Fishing Resources" with Inderena,
- "Development of a Photogrammetry Course at the Centro Interamericano de Fotointerpretacion" (CIAF),
- "Renewal of the Grant to the National Planning Department for Their Administration of Technical Assistance Programmes".

The Canadian minister indicated that his government is giving favourable consideration to such requests in conformity with the established procedures and expressed the intention of his government to ratify the respective agreements subject to the fulfilment of the pertinent technical and financial conditions. The Colombian minister assured his counterpart that his government is ready to provide the necessary financing and will collaborate to improve any aspect of those projects in order to maximize the impact of such co-operation.

They also noted that the total funds for the 1976-1980 five-year co-operation programme have now been assigned.

The ministers exchanged thoughts on the Canadian Strategy for Interantional Development and agreed to jointly study the implementation of new forms of co-operation, particularly in the industrial sector.

Both ministers expressed the intention of their respective governments to devote the necessary resources to the full implementation of the five-year plan. They also expressed the intention of their governments to devote additional resources to specific projects which could be considered later.

Both ministers agreed that the continuation of the process of Andean integration is highly desirable and they emphasized the strong support that Canada is giving through CIDA to such Andean institutions as the Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena and the Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF).

In the cultural and information fields the ministers noted that there has been some increase in exchanges. The Canadian minister invited Colombia to participate in his country's general programmes for student and inter-faculty exchanges, joint research projects and support for lecture tours and language assistants. Both ministers agreed on the desirability of promoting further activity in this area.

On his departure, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, on behalf of Mrs. Jamieson and the members of his delegation, expressed his sincere gratitude for the reception given him by the Government and people of Colombia during his visit to Colombia.