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CANADA-CUBA: JOINT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION ON POLITICAL,  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES\*

[Done at Havana, January 22, 1997]

+Cite as 36 I.L.M. 210 (1997)+

I.L.M. Content Summary

[Description of invitation and setting for the meeting] . . . . . I.L.M. Page 211  
[The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy,  
visited Cuba on January 21 and 22, 1997 at the invitation of the Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of Cuba, His Excellency Roberto Robaina Gonzalez]

[Preamble] . . . . . I.L.M. Page 211  
[Reaffirming the successful bilateral relationship between Canada and Cuba;  
underscoring the benefits of a frank and open dialogue; mutual pledge to conduct  
international relations on the basis of the defense of international law; reaffirming  
their commitment to peace]

[Numbered paragraphs concerning Canadian/Cuban cooperation on political,  
economic and social issues] . . . . . I.L.M. Page 211

1. [Administration of justice and the judicial-legal system]
2. [Exchanges between the House of Commons and the National Assembly]
3. [Exchange of experiences on Cuban plans to strengthen the Citizens'  
Complaints Commission]
4. [Increasing cooperation on human rights]
5. [Supporting the activities of non-governmental organizations]
6. [Continued macroeconomic cooperation]
7. [Negotiating a Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement]
8. [Collaboration on narcotics interdiction]
9. [Setting up conversations on international terrorism and its prevention]
10. [Negotiating a MOU on public health]
11. [Negotiating an audio-visual co-production agreement]
12. [Renewing a sports cooperation accord]
13. [Considering joint development projects in developing countries]
14. [Providing food aid as a response to Hurricane Lili]

[Summary] . . . . . I.L.M. Page 212  
[Ministers Axworthy and Robaina pledged to continue to work in the future on  
bilateral cooperation on a broad range of economic and social issues]

Havana  
January 22, 1997

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\*[Reproduced from the text provided by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Media Relations Office, Ottawa.]

[The Canadian Extraterritorial Measures Act Incorporating the Amendments Countering the U.S. Helms-Burton  
Act, with an Introductory Note by Douglas H. Forsythe, appears at 36 I.L.M. 111 (1997).]



JOINT DECLARATION  
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CANADA AND CUBA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, visited the Republic of Cuba on January 21 and 22, 1997, responding to an invitation made to him by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, His Excellency Roberto Robaina Gonzalez. Minister Axworthy met with senior representatives of the Cuban Government, with whom he had the opportunity to exchange views on various issues of the bilateral relationship, the realities of both countries and international relations.

Both Ministers reaffirmed the high value of the longstanding and uninterrupted bilateral relationship between Canada and Cuba since its establishment in 1945. They underscored the fact that Canada-Cuba relations have always emphasized the importance of maintaining a frank and open dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect, not only on issues in which both sides agree, but as well on issues on which they differ.

The Ministers emphasized their mutual commitment and their right to conduct international relations on the basis of the defense of International Law . They reiterated the commitment to peace of their respective peoples and their common endeavours to promote social justice in an atmosphere of stability and unity, based upon the consensus of their respective citizens.

Ministers Axworthy and Robaina stated that as a result of the continuing development in bilateral relations and high-level discussions which have taken place in the past few months, Canada and Cuba have agreed to advance towards new initiatives within the framework of their bilateral relationship. These initiatives encompass a wide range of political, economic and social issues.

In this context, they had the opportunity to assess a number of areas in which both governments have agreed to work jointly. Among these areas, the following examples can be cited:

1. Cooperation in the area of the administration of justice and the judicial-legal system, including exchanges of judges and judicial training.
2. Support exchanges between the House of Commons and the National Assembly, focusing on the operations of both institutions.
3. Exchange of experiences between both countries relating to the Cuban intention to strengthen within the National Assembly of People's Power a Citizens' Complaints Commission.



4. Broadening and deepening cooperation on the issue of human rights, which will include the preparation of seminars on diverse matters of mutual interest, academic exchanges between officials, professionals and experts, as well as sharing experiences and positions on the work of the specialized organizations of the United Nations.
5. Supporting the activities of Canadian and Cuban non-governmental organizations within the framework of bilateral cooperation between both countries and in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country.
6. Continuation of macroeconomic cooperation, with an initial focus in the areas of taxation and central banking, while studying joint areas in which Canada might continue to support the Cuban policy of economic reform.
7. The negotiation of a Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement.
8. Further collaboration on narcotics interdiction, including the negotiation of a bilateral accord.
9. The establishment of bilateral conversations on the issue of international terrorism and its prevention.
10. The negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Health Canada and the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba.
11. The negotiation of an audio-visual co-production agreement.
12. The renewal of a bilateral Sports cooperation accord.
13. The exploration of possibilities for joint research and development and cooperation projects in developing countries in the areas of health and environment.
14. The provision of food aid in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Lili.

Ministers Axworthy and Robaina welcomed these initiatives as a further example of the constructive collaboration which exists between both their respective governments and looked forward to continuing to work in the future on bilateral cooperation on a broad range of economic and social issues.

Havana

January 22, 1997

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