

Declaration ensures closer economic ties with Brazil

Herald Reporter

ZIMBABWE and Brazil can now look forward to increased economic co-operation following the signing of a joint declaration on bilateral, regional and international issues in Harare yesterday.

The declaration, signed by President Mugabe and Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, re-emphasised that the two countries work for closer co-operation in technical and scientific fields, and the transfer of technology industrialisation, energy and environment.

It was felt that bilateral trade needed improvement in future, and the prospect for increased trade had been enhanced by the fact that both countries had embarked on similar economic policies whose objective was to de-regulate their economies.

Programme

Zimbabwe introduced the new economic reform programme last October, aimed at liberalising foreign trade and upgrading industrial and technological capabilities.

In the declaration the two presidents called for a renewed effort to expand bilateral trade relations with emphasis on manufactured products and services, and this en-

deavour could succeed with the help of the private sector.

On regional issues it was felt that MERCOSUL in South America, and SADCC and PTA in Southern and Eastern Africa, should strive to create new opportunities for co-operation.

The two leaders agreed that regional integration increased global exchanges.

In the declaration, they reaffirmed their support for the convening of global negotiations in order to establish a just and durable new international economic order.

Comprehensive

They said the problem of external debt demanded comprehensive solutions which respected national sovereignty and allow further development of the indebted countries.

Both presidents expressed satisfaction with steps being taken in sharing information and experience in the area of patents. They also welcomed contacts established between the National Institute of Industrial Property of Brazil and the African Regional Industrial Property Organisation which has its headquarters in Harare.

The two countries were now considering negotiations for a draft economic, technical,

scientific and cultural co-operation agreement. It was believed such an agreement would encourage exchanges in agricultural research, renewable sources of energy and industry.

Shortly after the signing ceremony, Cde Mugabe said Mr Collor de Mello's visit to Zimbabwe was an historic one in that it was the first one by a Brazilian head of state.

"The visit has created a history which will start another historical process which will bring new relations in forms of trade, scientific and technical co-operation," he said.

He urged the South to be more co-operative and remove the disparities which now exist between the North and the South. Cde Mugabe thanked Mr Collor de Mello for the visit before he appealed to him to pay more visits to Zimbabwe.

"You have stepped only one step and this is not the whole journey; we hope you will come again," he said.

Cde Mugabe said Zimbabwe was a peaceful country, and was very ambitious.

In reply, Mr Collor de Mello said the visit strengthened the relations between the two countries. He said the roots of Brazil were in Africa and he was in the country to deepen the relations.