

and listen to the reasons advanced by those parties interested in our joining the Association.

I have not commented on the specific problem of whether or not we should discuss the matter of advising the State Department that we would accept to be represented as an observer at the OAS Conference to be held this fall since I gather that the American Division will be looking into the matter in the near future. It could be inferred, however, from the remarks made above that I would be in favour of accepting the role of observer for the Conference. If we could maintain our status of observer for the next ten years, without being pressed into actual membership, I would have little hesitation in recommending that it be accepted. Whatever way we look at our relations with Latin America during the next ten years, I feel that it is in Canada's interest that they become more intimate. The argument in favour of an increase of our trade need not be repeated although it cannot be too strongly emphasized. We must maintain and even increase our exports if we are to keep a healthy economy and there are few if any markets in the world so rich as those found in Latin America. Come an intensification in the cold war and even actual global war we would need all the support we could muster from that part of the world; come a more happy period we will still need the markets. In my opinion, we cannot lose if we play the Latin American card and it is not too difficult a card to play. If a more forthcoming attitude towards the OAS helps us at all in this respect I submit that we should adopt it.

1091.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

SECRET

Ottawa, February 26, 1953

## THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

I have read over with interest the memorandum attached to your memorandum of February 23rd and in which you give a few comments on Canada's attitude towards the Organization of American States.

2. I think the arguments you advance in favour of Canada's association in some form or other with the Organization of American States have a great deal of validity. The only question in my mind is whether or not we are yet ready for this step. I cannot detect any interest whatsoever among the Canadian public in favour of Canada being associated with the Organization of American States. Any move in this direction therefore would not be likely to have much popular support in spite of all the arguments we could advance about the advantages we would be deriving by becoming associated more closely with the Latin-American countries. At the same time there would be a section of Canadian opinion which would feel that this move was another step in the direction of weakening our ties with the Commonwealth. Even though it might be easy to counter such an argument, I fear the net result