

and individually. It would be unmistakable proof of Canada's desire to throw in its lot with the other countries of the hemisphere. However, there are other implications.

If, as seems likely, the OAS succeeds under its new charter in orienting itself increasingly toward economic, social and cultural goals, it may become the sort of instrument with which Canada could co-operate very effectively. In addition, there might be economic advantage from the Canadian point of view. The OAS and its principal economic bodies such as IA-ECOSOC would provide a framework in which a coherent Canadian economic policy toward Latin America could be articulated and in which Canada and Canadian industrial capacities could be made better known, thus facilitating the expansion of Canadian trade with Latin America and of Canadian investment there. At the same time, as a member of the IA-ECOSOC Special Committee for consultation and negotiation on trade policies, Canada would increasingly be expected to determine its policies and practice with regard to economic relations with other countries of the hemisphere through consultations in this forum.

In future there may be a trend in the OAS toward collective decisions regarding the use of development assistance. In any case, OAS membership might tend, at least initially, to restrict Canadian freedom of action in development assistance matters, since, when becoming a member of the OAS, Canada would join the Inter-American Development Bank and this and other OAS development assistance programmes could absorb most available resources for a period of many years.

If Canada joined the OAS, the Canadian Government's principal effort in the field of science, technology and cultural affairs generally would presumably be made in and through OAS programmes, in particular those proposed by the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture. The financial obligation, though much less than in the field of development assistance, would be substantial. As indicated above, the OAS university exchange programme is highly rated, and a special effort in the field of science and technology is now being made and there would be real scope for Canadian co-operation in these programmes. One result, however, would be the assignment, for financial reasons, of a lower priority to the development of any bilateral cultural programmes with Latin American countries.

Any Canadian move to join the OAS must reflect a serious interest in the political affairs of the hemisphere and in hemispheric defence and security. Canada's direct interest in the political affairs of the hemisphere is real but still somewhat limited. Nevertheless, a decision to seek member-