

Mr. Smith in Latin America

Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, accepting the invitations of the Brazilian and Mexican Governments, is making official visits to those countries in November, and early December.

This will be the first formal visit made by a Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs to Latin America. Canada's first exchange of diplomatic representation in Latin America was made with Brazil, when the Canadian Legation, later raised to embassy status, was opened in Rio de Janeiro in September 1941. The exchange of diplomatic representation with Mexico dates from 1944. The atmosphere of Canadian relations with both countries has been consistently friendly and co-operative, and the visit of the Secretary of State for External Affairs provides an opportunity to demonstrate the Canadian desire that these good relations should be maintained and strengthened. Because the Minister is already committed to attend the December meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Paris, he will not be able to extend his tour to other Latin American countries.

Mr. Smith will be accompanied by his wife and by a small group of officials. Several of the Canadian Heads of Mission in other South American countries will meet the party in Rio de Janeiro and will attend a two-day meeting with Mr. Smith and the departmental officials to discuss policies and problems of common interest.

Mr. Smith will leave from Seattle, Washington, immediately after the Colombo Plan Ministerial Meetings, which are expected to end on November 13. He will remain in Brazil from November 17 to November 27 approximately and will then spend four or five days in Mexico, where he will represent Canada at the inauguration of the new President, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, on December 1.