

its Third Option in developing trade ties with Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba, which also wished to diversify their relations. A similar point of view was expressed by Georges Angers in Le Soleil (Quebec) on January 17; by Marcel Lepin in La Presse (Montreal) on January 19; and by Le Soleil in an editorial on January 27.

Geoffrey Stevens, in a despatch from Ottawa to the Globe and Mail on January 22 also used the Third Option theme, and then wrote:

"Canada's view of Latin America over the years can be stated in one word - indifference. We know, and care, less about Latin America than about any other part of the world...Some of this should be corrected over the next two weeks..."

Reporting from Caracas on February 3, he noted that goodwill and a desire for closer relations evidently existed but that the problem was to translate a general desire into something specific. One possibility would be for Canada to take out observer status in a new grouping, SELA (the Latin American Economic System). Stevens said that it was imperative for Canada to work more closely with developing nations, and that Latin America was "a particularly promising region with which to begin". He concluded:

"...If understanding leads to some sort of special relationship between Canada and Latin America, so much the better. Mr. Trudeau's trip has opened a door. The Canadian Government would be a fool not to try to walk through it".

Commenting on Stevens's article of January 22 in a letter to the Globe and Mail on January 24, Michael R. Lubbock, Executive Director of CALA, wrote that the purposes of the trip were clear