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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM WA-1939

Washington, November 11, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference: Your EX-2025 of November 5 and EX-2039 of November 9, 1954. †

## RIO ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

There is now an obvious gap between the role designed for Canada at Rio by the OAS and your plan for the delegation, and an even wider gap between the United States and Canadian ideas of the Canadian role. We appreciate the reasons for your position and I have only two minor modifications to your plan to suggest for your consideration. We fully realize that Canada cannot be trotted out at Rio as a kind of exhibit such as the State Department had intended. We would, however, be glad if we could move a few inches towards their concept of an active Canadian role, since we are naturally reluctant to dampen down the new helpfulness and frankness which now exists in the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

2. The more important consideration, however, we suggest, is that the Latin American members of OAS who were, as you know, sensitive about extending an invitation which might be refused should feel that we had turned down too coldly and too completely the special category misleadingly called "observer" which they had designed for us as the only American state, not a member of OAS, present at Rio. Such an impression, we feel, would be unhelpful in the general context of Canadian relations with Latin America.

3. Will you consider allowing us to explain to the State Department that while Canadian delegation will be present in Rio for the most part in the position of a true observer, that this does not preclude the possibility of contributing information when requested, or even expressing interest, if occasions for such action arose?

4. We also suggest that you might re-consider your decision not to send Towe here for pre-conference discussions. While we realize that this is not as convenient, we do feel that the offer of the State Department to place all its information before us was, whatever the motives, generous and a helpful precedent for future dealings with the bureau in question. If Towe could come here for a day and return to Ottawa, it would allow for discussions there of the information he had gathered. The less good alternative would be to have him come to Washington and from here direct to Rio.