

in Part III of this study. At this time John Harbron contributed three articles on OAS to the Toronto Telegram, commencing on October 26, 1968. He concluded that the "chances appear good that we'll at last take the plunge and join". In an editorial on October 26, the Telegram was cautious, saying that Canada's "consistent disinterest" in Latin America might be "remedied somewhat" by the ministerial mission; that some of the reasons for not joining the OAS "hold less and less water as the years go by"; but that the decision to expand our relations would "be based on self-interest and national advantage".

The Montreal Gazette, October 30, 1968, expressed the opinion that the mission's discussions regarding trade, aid and cultural ties could be more important than discussions relating to OAS. It declared that Canada should be interested in the economic, social and political future of Latin America: indeed, it was part of the world that Canada could no longer ignore.

During the tour itself, and afterwards, most of the comment concerned the possibility of Canada's entry into the OAS. Just after the Ministers and officials left Canada the Ottawa Citizen of October 29/68 dealt with the OAS problem, concluding that "Canada's freedom to pursue an independent foreign policy in Cuba...remains a powerful argument against joining".

In the course of the tour the Secretary of State for External Affairs was reported from Buenos Aires as saying that the mission had received conflicting advice regarding the question of Canada's possible entry into the OAS: some countries were in favour,