

in other ways, I think that these actions on our part have resulted in the building up of a very fine relationship between our two countries. Canada, of course, was doing only what any humane country would do. We were delighted to be able to help them. But they have shown great gratitude. Recently our Ambassador to Chile had the opportunity to travel throughout the stricken area of Southern Chile and there he was shown records of the distribution of Canadian flour to hundreds of needy persons. He found the most kindly feeling toward our country.

As another sequel to the airlift assistance we were able to give, the Ambassador of Chile on April 20, on behalf of the Chilean Air Force, presented the Prime Minister with a plaque to commemorate the R.C.A.F.'s part in flying relief supplies to Chile. In the United Nations we found that Chile gave us help time and again. They were one of the first to co-sponsor our resolution on disarmament and we believe there has been a very fine friendship established between our two countries.

Hon. Members may wonder what is the present position with regard to Canada joining the Organization of American States. I have mentioned this question in many speeches during the last year. It has aroused a good deal of interest. Some branches of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs have undertaken to study the question and to let me know the results of their study. The policy of finding out from the Canadian people just what they think about this aspect of foreign policy is progressing very well. We are not yet in a position to make a decision as to whether or not Canada should join this Organization. We took steps to send observers to the meeting of the Organization of American States which was to have been held in Quito, Ecuador, next month. However, we received word today that the Conference will be going ahead. It is gratifying to see in Canada the increasing interest in this question. I am wondering whether Canada is wise in adopting an isolationist policy with regard to the western hemisphere. However, that is part of the argument on one side.

I do suggest to Hon. Members that they give this whole question deep thought, and that they discuss it with their constituents. It would be a big step in Canadian foreign policy if we were to join this western hemisphere organization. I think the decision should be taken only when it is fairly clear that the majority of the Canadian people are in favour of this being done.

The Pacific Area

The final field of activity toward which we are directing our attention is in the Pacific. Yesterday I announced that a call for a cease fire had been issued by the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. as Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference of 1954. They had invited India, as Chairman of the Truce Supervisory Commission, to call the Commission together in New Delhi. In addition, they called for a conference of 14 nations to be held in Geneva on May 12. If Hon. Members read these letters, they will observe that the first job of