

FRENCH SPEAKING AND ENGLISH SPEAKING

ATTITUDES

There seems to be very little difference in attitudes toward Latin America in the two linguistic groups. It has often been suggested that French-Canadians have a greater affinity for Latin America than their English language compatriots. A study of attitudes, as expressed in opinion journals and in the press, does not confirm this.

The concept of Latinité has been held by a very small minority of intellectuals in Quebec, but only rarely have these intellectuals had much knowledge of the society with which they consider they have some cultural affinity.¹ Latin Americans also have this misconception as Adèle Lauzon pointed out in the July 1967, Le Magazine Maclean. She wrote, "...ils nous perçoivent dès le départ comme un foyer de résistance possible à l'envahissement américain, indépendamment des affinités culturelles que nous pouvons avoir avec eux." But the point has been made that almost everyone, English or French, "thinks" there is this affinity and it is ever regarded thus. The evidence seems to show, however, that the Anglo-Saxon society, with some probable exceptions because of traditional biases, stereotyping, and ignorance, have as great an interest in having closer relations with Latin America.

Both linguistic groups have organizations dedicated to developing closer relations with Latin America. The Union des Latins d'Amérique, founded in 1940 as a Quebec nationalist organ, became less political after 1945 and has devoted its attention to urging closer co-operation with the Pan American Union-OAS and to the teaching of