

If our unique historical evolution led us in the past to neglect the hemispheric dimension of our relations, there came a time, Your Excellency, when we recognized at last the need to diversify our foreign policy, to reach out and to strengthen our ties with the rest of the hemisphere. We realized that we had to balance the rich, extensive and, I must emphasize, satisfying relations we enjoy with the United States by expanding our economic, cultural, scientific and political contacts with the other major regions of the world.

Latin America is for us a key area, together with the European Economic Community and Japan, in the pursuit of this policy. Since we took the decision in 1970 to strengthen our links with the other countries of the western hemisphere, we have appointed an Ambassador as our Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States, we have become members of the Inter-American Development Bank to which we have pledged or committed \$300 million, we have finished joining all the significant specialized agencies of the OAS, we have established a number of bilateral aid programs throughout the area and we have provided the Andean Pact with aid to finance integration studies.

In principle, Canada supports any moves in Latin America towards economic or political cooperation. For this reason, we have been a member for some time of the UN Economic Council for Latin America; we shall continue to support the Andean Pact; and we have offered to cooperate in the technical development projects of SELA.\* We are willing to look once again at the question of Canadian membership in the OAS once the Organization has decided what its future role should be.

If our interests in inter-American affairs is relatively recent, our relations with Peru are for our standards quite old. For you are one of the countries with which we established relations, when in the days of the Second World War, we began to expand our foreign policy beyond the narrow confines of the pre-war years. In the period of rapid change that you have traversed since your revolution of 1968, you have always enjoyed our sympathy, respect and understanding. We have tried to make our understanding for this humanist revolution manifest in a number of ways.

In the first year of our bilateral aid programmes in Latin America, 1972, we began in Peru. It is with Peru now, that we have one of our largest assistance programs in Latin America. We are pleased at the way in which our gestures of friendship have met with a welcoming echo from you, and our ties have grown and developed for several years. We are especially happy at the way in which our trade has grown. From 1970 to 1975 our exports to Peru have almost doubled, while our imports have almost tripled.

...4

\*Latin American Economic System