

this connection, you may also wish to refer to a memorandum prepared by my Information Officer on January 10, 1952,¹³ at the behest of Mr. H.O. Moran, on the development of Canadian information and cultural activities in this part of the world.

5. Only when Canada will have exhausted the potential influence which she could exercise in Latin America through encouraging the activities of her missions, should she, in my opinion, give consideration to aligning herself more closely with the OAS. If ever the time should come when Canada will feel disposed to accept an invitation to join the OAS, she will then be in a better position to make an effectual contribution to the work of the OAS.

C.P. HÉBERT

1050.

DEA/2226-40

*L'ambassadeur au Brésil
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in Brazil
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH 21

Rio de Janeiro, January 21, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

OBSERVER STATUS FOR CANADA AT 10TH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO BE HELD
IN VENEZUELA LATE IN 1953

Reference: Your despatch No. X-294 of October 28, 1952.¹⁴

I have given considerable thought to this question. I can, of course, speak only from my experience in Brazil and in Cuba during the past four years.

2. In my humble judgment, acceptance of any invitation to send observers to the 10th Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States to be held in Venezuela late in 1953 would be tantamount to a decision to join the Organization, or, at the very least, as suggested in Mr. Wrong's despatch of September 25th, it would be difficult to disengage ourselves and to refuse further proposals for a continuing closer association with the O.A.S. The matter, therefore, resolves itself into the question as to whether Canada is prepared to consider favourably the suggestion of becoming a member of the O.A.S. On the larger political issue, my views, I feel, may be of little value and I shall, therefore, confine my observations largely to reporting on the situation, as I see it, in Brazil and my earlier experience in Cuba.

3. Since I came to Brazil more than fourteen months ago, no Minister or other official of the Brazilian Government has ever mentioned the O.A.S. to me. They frequently discuss their co-operation with Canada in the United Nations and its agencies, such as the World Health Organization and

¹³Non retrouvée./Not located.

¹⁴Le document 1045./Document 1045.