

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, has announced that his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. André Ouellet, M.P., will lead Canada's observer delegation at the First Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) to be held in San José, Costa Rica, April 14-24, 1971.

While in San José, Mr. Ouellet will discuss with the foreign ministers and the heads of delegations of the other participating countries, the ways in which Canada can strengthen its ties with the OAS and the countries of this region. He will also discuss with representatives of the countries concerned certain Canadian technical assistance projects now under study. In addition, Mr. Ouellet plans to visit the headquarters in San José of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, a body which Canada is considering joining.

At the initial plenary sessions of the General Assembly, Mr. Ouellet will address the conference and emphasize Canada's desire to move closer to the inter-American system; he will outline the steps which have been taken in this direction since the publication of the Canadian foreign policy paper.

The Canadian delegation will include Mr. D. W. Munro, Canadian Ambassador to Costa Rica, Mr. R. H. Middleton, Counsellor and Liaison Officer to the OAS from our Embassy in Washington, and Miss D. Buckley-Jones of the Latin American Division of the Department of External Affairs.