

countries and even non-hemispheric countries in its developmental activities. Canada is being consulted informally on some of these questions and I would like to take this opportunity to make a few general comments on how we see the situation and the possibilities.

6. At the risk of repeating what has been said at previous Assemblies, I would like to outline to you the current Canadian outlook on the future of our relations with the OAS. The Canadian foreign policy paper of 1970 envisaged a formal link with the OAS in order to facilitate the rapid development of Canada's relations with Latin American countries and institutions. Our purpose was to "prepare for a better informed and more useful Canadian participation as a full member of the OAS should Canada, at some future date, opt for full participation". The future of Canada's association with the OAS will depend, therefore, to some extent, on the results of the process of review and revision of institutional structures and objectives that is now in progress. There has been a substantial shift of emphasis in Latin America, as elsewhere, to economic and social problems. This is a shift we welcome because it is to your social and economic activities that we see Canada as being able to make the most useful and effective contribution. I must tell you quite candidly, however, that we are disturbed by the atmosphere of confrontation which we have detected in some of the recent discussions about the problems of the hemisphere. We do not think that this is conducive to the solution of our problems. (The recent decision on an application for Permanent Observer status by a country that contributes significantly to the technical assistance programs of this Organization, will inevitably raise questions as to whether there is a real and serious desire on the part of members of the OAS for wider participation by non-members in inter-American cooperation for development.) At a time when the conduct of international affairs generally appears to be moving from confrontation to negotiation and cooperation, I think it would be unproductive for us in this hemisphere to appear to be moving in the opposite direction. Certainly it would be Canada's hope that we could manage to stem this trend and join our efforts in trying to find concrete solutions to the issues on which we diverge and to the problems we share in common.

7. The economic and social activities of the OAS, as well as those in the fields of science, education and culture, are of increasing interest to Canadians. There is already evidence of Canadian cooperation in these programs. During the past year, in addition to the steps I mentioned earlier, Canada has attended, on a fairly regular basis, the CIAP country reviews. Canada has recently entered into technical and financial cooperation with the OAS in a number of specific areas: the pilot project for transfer of technology; the public finance program; the labour and employment program; and the program of the regional development office. In some cases, this cooperation has been arranged through our Canadian International Development Agency and, in others, through the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, and through various governmental departments.