

Before leaving subject Minister volunteered that he had been very pleased by operation Pan America's practical approach to hemispheric problems. With [this] operation Latin Americans seemed willing to assume leadership in settling their problems, not to leave them entirely to the USA. This was excellent since in spite of her amazing war record in assisting other countries the fact remained that certain projects if presented exclusively as USA initiatives were bound to meet with trouble if not with failure.

Mr. Negrao de Lima made it clear that he appreciated Canada's position vis-à-vis operation Pan America as just expressed by Minister and that he fully recognized Canada's contributions to international projects.

(d) OAS.

Brazilian Minister then wondered whether, since this was an informal exchange among friends, he could not venture to ask for information on long term possibility of Canada joining OAS. The Brazilian Minister presented issue in what may be new form on which [group corrupt] separately asking more details when he said Brazilian Government felt it was becoming more and more difficult for OAS [to] deal with its hemispheric problems without Canada's participation and that time might now have been reached when OAS could no longer afford not to have Canada as one of its members.

Mr. Smith replied he could not give yes or no answer to question as raised by his Brazilian colleague.

He said, using best diplomatic language, he would state question was under constant consideration Ottawa. He wished to point out, however, that we had in several ways emphasized our genuine interest in Latin America. Canada was a young country internationally, yet from representation in six countries in 1939, she now had representation in 44 countries, one-quarter of which [were in] Latin America. Our qualified personnel was stretched to limit and sudden obligations such as those arising in Mideast have forced us to attend to pressing needs in other areas. The Minister was in Brazil precisely to give another proof of Canada's friendship towards Latin America. When linked to Mr. Diefenbaker's tour of Commonwealth<sup>9</sup> and Mr. Fleming's trip to Far East,<sup>10</sup> his own trip was a clear indication of new Canadian government awareness of Latin America. This showed deeper realization of Canada's hemispheric responsibilities. Joining to answer Brazilian Minister's question he frankly did not know if and when Canada would ever join OAS. He asked Brazilian Minister to look at one aspect of this question which may not have struck him. If we joined OAS, we might frequently find ourselves at odds with USA. In itself this was nothing to be scared of as long as we were sincere in our views but he wondered if in this new atomic era Canada's present relations with the USA were not already complex and delicate enough without bringing new disturbing factors into these relations.

Negrao de Lima commented that he was deeply appreciative of Minister's frankness dealing with his question. He also appreciated viewpoint [group corrupt] Minister touching upon our delicate relations with USA.

<sup>9</sup> Voir volume 24, chapitre III, 4<sup>e</sup> partie./See Volume 24, Chapter III, Part 4.

<sup>10</sup> Le ministre des Finances Donald Fleming a assisté à la réunion annuelle du Fonds monétaire international commencée le 6 octobre 1958 à New Delhi. Il a ensuite fait la tournée des pays d'Asie membres du Commonwealth et du Japon avant de rentrer au Canada le 16 novembre 1958.

Finance Minister Donald Fleming attended the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in New Delhi beginning on October 6, 1958; he subsequently toured Asian Commonwealth nations and Japan before returning to Canada on November 16, 1958.