

the economic future of Latin America that it was thought useful for us to attend the Conference as an observer in order better to understand some of the main issues in the field of economics, finance and trade affecting Inter-American relations.

There is little doubt, however, that Canada's attendance as an observer at Rio will be considered as a politically significant event by the United States and the Latin-American countries. They are likely to interpret this observership as concrete evidence that, in the not too distant future, Canada will become a full member of the Organization of American States. It is *not* the wish of the Canadian Government to give currency to this thought at the present time. Our "observership" at this special economic conference should therefore be carried out in such a way as to give to Latin American countries and to the United States the minimum hope that our policy regarding fuller membership in the Organization of American States has in any respects altered. With this in mind, you should therefore do your best to keep out of the limelight and to discourage any movement for a closer association of Canada with the Inter-American system. This will not be easy if, at the same time, you are not to give offense to the representatives of Latin-American States. So as to bring you up to date on the position hitherto taken by Canada in the Inter-American system, you will find in the attached brief which has been prepared for you a memorandum on this subject prepared in the Department.⁶

I do not expect that you will find it necessary to take a position at the Conference with respect to the agenda items which will be discussed. It would be useful, however, for you to know the general Canadian policy on the subjects under consideration. Such information may be found in the attached brief. This brief ought to be of value to you in any private conversations you may have with the representatives attending the Conference.

As you know, Mr. P.M. Towe of the Department, is being sent to help you. He is aware of the latest thinking in Ottawa in the political and economic fields as they relate to this Conference. Needless to say that I wish you every success in this mission. I will be interested to read your report on not only the economic, finance and trade aspects of the Conference but also on the political aspects of Canada's presence as an observer.

Yours sincerely,
L.B. PEARSON

⁶ Non retrouvé./Not located.