



*Canada's first permanent observer at the Organization of American States, Ambassador Alfred Pick, is welcomed by OAS Secretary General, Galo Plaza, on his first visit to OAS headquarters in Washington.*

Canada's Permanent Observer at the OAS has the rank of ambassador. From the vantage point of this mission, which represents an innovation in the OAS organizational framework, Canada hopes to gain a better view of the workings of the OAS. We are also following closely the shift in the direction of OAS activities that commenced with the Act of Bogotá, in 1960, and culminated in the adoption of the Protocol of Buenos Aires in 1967. The new emphasis the OAS is placing on raising living standards, on ensuring social justice, on achieving economic development and promoting educational, scientific and cultural advancement, is in line with Canadian priorities and represents a promising focus for fuller Canadian participation in the affairs of the hemisphere.

It is this line of reasoning that prompted Canada, in May of 1972, to become a member of the Inter-American Development Bank. This was not, of course, the beginning of our association with the Bank. Since 1964, we had found it convenient to use the Bank as a channel for Canadian development assistance to Latin America. At the time of the foreign policy review, no substantial modification of that arrangement was contemplated. A decision on full membership was explicitly set aside because of the relatively high proportion of Canada's total development-assistance budget which membership was expected to absorb.

In the event, Canada decided to move beyond the policy foreshadowed in the foreign policy review. We did so because it seemed to us that it would not be