

Canada will also submit applications soon for membership in the Inter-American Institute for Social Security and the Inter-American Indian Institute.

Finally, we have studied the best method of co-operating more closely with the Inter-American Export Promotion Centre. During last November's visit to Ottawa by the centre's Director and in subsequent discussions we have been considering placing Canadian specialists at the centre's disposal. We recognize the importance of export promotion for the Latin American countries and we hope that Canada can make a useful contribution to the work of the Inter-American Export Promotion Centre.

This brief examination of the increasing institutional links between Canada and the rest of the hemisphere would not be complete without mention of our close co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank, which for over six years has administered Canadian funds used for economic development in Latin America. We also participate continuously in the work of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrators, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies and the Inter-American Statistical Institute. For a long time we have been a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America. We believe that Canada has a place in these specialized organizations and that it can play an even more important role, and we are now in the process of examining ways of attaining this objective.

Now I come to the crux of the matter of our co-operation with the other nations in the hemisphere. We believe that it is essential to establish satisfactory institutional links between us. You will therefore understand our hope that you will agree to the creation of a Canadian permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States.

We are looking for concrete ways to co-operate with you in the area of social and economic development. An observer mission would not only be accredited to and co-operate with the Organization of American States, but would also be an integral part of the Canadian governmental apparatus, committed to furthering our relations with this most important inter-American institution. It would be a bank of considerable technical knowledge on the mechanisms of co-operation in our hemisphere and an invaluable source of information for our guidance in allocating funds for Latin America. Decisions that Canada must make will be based on a better understanding of Latin American needs if we receive regular and documented information from the Organization of American States.

We believe that a Canadian observer mission would also be beneficial to the organization and its members. Closer co-operation with the Organization of American States is to us an important aspect of Canadian policy on Latin America.