

parallel which I have been trying to draw in other contexts is valid here again, for, if Latin American culture has not received all the attention it should in our country, similarly our culture is only slightly known in Latin America. With the exception of the ancient culture of Canadian Indians, linked with that of the natives of the southern part of the American continent, our artistic and literary productions have not succeeded very much in crossing the borders of the Latin American states.

On the whole, the internal situation of our country at the present time seems quite favourable to a cultural rapprochement with Latin America. Like the people of Latin America, most Canadians are the inheritors of Christian traditions and the Graeco-Roman civilization; and like them we attach importance to maintaining ties with Europe. If one adds to that a certain adventurousness which expresses itself externally in a desire to explore and draw closer to many parts of the world -- a tendency notable among the young --, one finds a solid basis for closer relations with Latin America.

As is the case for other parts of the world, there are some aspects of our cultural relations with Latin America that are especially important. I am thinking, in particular, of exchanges on the intellectual plane, university and scientific exchanges, and more generally of the personal contacts which are favoured by personnel exchanges of all kinds. In these fields, and in the field of artistic exchanges, there is a legitimate government role to be played, and we are now studying the possibility of closer co-operation on our part.

Finally, it should be noted that the public information disseminated in both directions -- toward Canada from Latin America and vice versa -- is scanty. We are far better informed about the situation in the United States or about events in other corners of the world than we are about what is actually going on in Latin America. Fortunately, there is some tendency on the part of newspapers and other media to improve this situation. On our side, for example, the CBC's International Service is effectively broadcasting in Latin America information about Canada, and it disseminates some Canadian culture. Nevertheless an effort must be made to further improve this situation if we are to remedy the obvious lack of information between two major parts of the same continent....

International Security

Canada's relations with Latin America in the realm of international security are indirect rather than direct. Since the Second World War, Canada's role in this field has assumed a threefold aspect: in the first place, an alliance with the United States for the defence of North America; secondly, as a member of NATO, our participation in agreements concerning the safety and stability of the North Atlantic world; and thirdly, under the auspices of the United Nations, our active co-operation in the effort to keep world peace. By this triple association, Canada up to now has contributed to world security and thus, indirectly, to the peace and stability of our Hemisphere.

America's security was only once subjected to external threat -- at the time of the Cuban crisis in 1962 -- and Canada was implicated through its obligations for the defence of North America. As you know, this crisis was actually settled by the two great powers involved. Normally, however, problems of Hemispheric security are looked after by the United Nations or by the OAS, of which Canada is not a member. This is why Canada has no direct responsibility