

The Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, has also been conducting health related programs in these regions. It is assisting the Andean Pact to build a pharmaceutical industry. In Trinidad, CIDA has provided technical assistance for a community mental health program. CIDA also endeavours to consider the long-term health implications of its assistance to the region. Thus a water-supply project in Belize contains provisions for ensuring that there will be local personnel capable of maintaining water purity levels. And an integrated rural development program in hospital-poor Haiti trains public health monitors in all aspects of preventive medicine. In general, Canada's health-related assistance programs attempt to attach fundamental problems, rather than merely applying "band-aids".

Main themes

In this seminar, you have been looking at both Latin America and the Caribbean. You all know how very different the two are, despite their proximity and links. The Canadian Government is now reviewing its policy in the Caribbean where Canada's interest is profound and growing and I look forward to speaking on that soon. Today, however, I want to focus on Canada's relations with Latin America. I shall present two major themes:

- . First, Canada's relations with Latin America should recognize not only the increased economic importance of Latin America but also the new weight of Latin America in global political issues. I believe these two dimensions of our relationship, the economic and political, should be mutually reinforcing.
- . Secondly, Canada's relations with Latin American countries should recognize their diversity. While needing to be sensitive to the regional dimension, we should avoid thinking primarily in terms of a "regional" policy. In recognizing Latin America's diversity, Canada should give special priority to developing further our relations with those countries where our political and economic interests are more concentrated.

Latin America in the Global Context

Before turning to the development of Canada's bilateral relations with Latin America, I want to consider the remarkable