

Supply—External Affairs

for a better understanding with its neighbours. The conference was definitely a success.

What is most gratifying is that during our stay in Punta del Este, we met the representatives of most of the Latin American countries and I am pleased to report that Canada enjoys a position of great prestige in Latin America. There was no exception and the political and business leaders whom we met all expressed their admiration of our country and their wish to establish a closer cultural and economic relationship with our nation.

At a luncheon which was offered to the delegates of the various nations by President Haedo of the republic of Uruguay, Canada occupied the place of honour and it was indeed gratifying to realize that Canada and Canadians are held in such high esteem in South and Central America. It was remarked frequently by many Latin Americans that there is an affinity between Canada and their respective countries. The Argentinians in particular observed that although we are geographically located at opposite ends of the Americas we nevertheless resemble each other from the point of view of size, population, the quality of our industry, the nature of our agricultural products and many other features; and the wish was expressed everywhere for a closer relationship which should prove mutually profitable. This, of course, made us very proud to be Canadians and to realize that the love which we have for our country is shared by so many others in foreign lands.

The conference lasted for ten days and ended on a note of optimism and determination to improve the fate of one and all in Latin America. There is no doubt that the moves that were initiated should prove extremely beneficial to the general and better interests of all American countries. Immediate effects resulting from the crash aid program should be felt soon and if the resolutions adopted are followed to the letter, it is quite reasonable to state that the future looks bright for Latin America. At this point, it is important to emphasize the great differences that exist between the economic structures of North America and those of Central and South America. The methods which have permitted the United States and our own country to grow and prosper during the last twenty five years are almost unknown in many sectors of Latin America or are still in their incipient stages in most countries. For example, banking such as we know it, trading and business practices which are in current use in this country and which have been so successful are unknown or not utilized in many sectors of the southern hemisphere. The use of credit which is the basis of our economic strength is unknown in most of the

Latin American countries. Few people in Latin America can, as an indication, buy a home, an automobile or the other commodities of our every day life and be granted the privilege of paying over a short or a long term basis. Money can be borrowed only at the most fantastic rates and investments in many countries are considered insecure because of a raging inflation and of the ever present risk of political revolutions.

The degree of illiteracy is tremendous. It is estimated that in Brazil alone, a country of 70 million people, at least 50 per cent of the population or 35 million people are completely without education of any kind. The degree of poverty as a net result in some areas is almost beyond description and I can say without exaggeration that in order to improve the standard of living of these enormous masses, almost all remains to be done. Latin America needs enormous sums of money; and although the sum of \$20 billion offered by United States as aid during the next ten years may appear fantastic at the outset, it is still relatively insufficient to meet the needs of Latin America during the next decade. But what Latin America needs far more than money is the technological methods and the scientific training which have been applied with such success in our northern hemisphere. Latin America does not need money as much as the knowledge of what to do with the money that it will receive. In the name of sovereignty or autonomy, some countries may be reluctant to accept the advice of foreigners or of those North Americans who will try to teach them the proper use of the financial means which will be offered. This could very well be disastrous since this money, if not properly utilized, could well be spent in futile ventures or even fall into the hands of a very few who, as it has too often been the custom, will invest it in foreign lands where the risk of a revolution is small and where the rate on investments can be more secure. Those interested in the future of Latin America should immediately use every effort to convince all Latin American countries of the need to accept the help of those who wish to train Latin Americans in the ways of modern technology and industrial and business practices which have proven so successful. An endeavour in this direction is essential if immediate and long term success is desired. A failure in this attempt will almost inevitably result in the rebellion of the people against the hopelessness of their fate and destiny and the advent of communism. What threatens Latin America is the worst form of communism, the revolution of the people who have not against the people who have; the destruction of all that is good; the rebellion of the poor