

he said that "we have to take greater account of the ties that bind us to other nations in this hemisphere...and of their economic needs", and that "we have to explore new avenues of increasing our political and economic relations with Latin America, where more than 400 million people will live by the turn of the century and where we have substantial interests"; and he announced the government's decision "to send before the end of 1968 a special mission at the ministerial level to tour Latin America". This part of the Prime Minister's statement attracted little or no attention at the time. The only comment noted was that of the United Church Observer of August 1, 1968, which welcomed the proposed mission as "a wise and overdue move, long delayed because we feared it would bring us into conflict with the United States". When the group of ministers and officials was about to set out in late October 1968, however, there was a spate of comment, not all of it favourable. Anthony Westell, writing from Ottawa in the Toronto Globe and Mail of October 5 thought the mission would break no new ice but should at least improve the flow of development aid to Latin America. Maurice Western in the Winnipeg Free Press of October 28 dismissed the mission as a "junket". On the same day the Ottawa Journal opined that the mission was not needed to promote trade, since "the Trade Department has watchful representatives", nor "to find out how we are regarded in Latin American capitals"; but it speculated that the mission might "drum up enough courage to make a flat recommendation on whether it is in Canada's interest to involve itself in the OAS", and finished by