

The General Public

Only a small number of Canadians react to Latin American issues. The 205 letters to the Secretary of State in 1961, in direct response to an appeal to the public, demonstrate this. It is also evident that the majority of correspondents were retired people with time on their hands. Only occasionally was there a letter from a person who had attempted a reasoned rather than an emotional response.

The two issues that inspired the most letters to the Secretary of State were the OAS and the Dominican crisis. The latter were anti-American in tone. The former were divided on the issue, but the majority opposed membership.

One correspondent wrote his M.P. in 1963 on the OAS question, and he was obviously concerned enough to poll his fellow employees. He said 95% opposed membership: the older the individual, the stronger the opposition.