

people. In the light of these facts, when the late President Kennedy stated that he regarded Latin America as the most critical area in the world, I think he was right.

Canada's trade with the area in 1963 was valued at about \$650 million. More than two-thirds of this represents Canadian purchases from the region. A very large part of our imports from South America, of course, is made up of petroleum products originating in Venezuela. The sad fact is that only four or five per cent of Canada's world trade is with the countries of Latin America, and Canada is the fourth largest trading nation in the world.

Without repeating all the matters I mentioned in my speech, I told my audience in Lima that day that we too have watched with interest the "development of the Latin American Free Trade Association and the Central American Common Market. Both have been patterned on the concept of the European Common Market. They are bold and progressive steps. We wish you well with them," I said, "because we believe they can do much to strengthen economies, open new markets, develop efficiency of production and raise standards of living." But I added, "We would hope, however, that these associations would look outward, as well as inward, as indeed we hope the European Common Market will do. Otherwise they can defeat their purpose."

I also added that I hoped my coming to the meeting would perhaps be another small token of the interest Canada has in the development of Latin America. I said that we would like to be associated with them as they move forward, as their economies expand, as their population grows, and as their countries become greater—because they are dynamic countries which are becoming greater.

Honourable senators, there is another matter to which I would especially like to refer. Outside of Peru, there is a settlement called Pampa de Comas. This is a mission operated by the Oblate Fathers. It is under the direction of Father Birch in Ottawa. The Director on the site is Father Godin. There are a couple of hundred thousand Peruvian people living in this settlement. They have come out of the hills, attracted by job opportunities in Lima. They live in adobe huts without sanitation, water or power. The land is very dry.

The mission runs a chapel, school, a trade school, and clinic. There may be some 30 Canadians. Some are priests, some nuns, some lay brothers teaching in the school; but there are quite a number of laymen and laywomen. There are German technicians, a few American nurses, a few Peruvian doctors, and they are training Peruvians to carry on the social service work there, providing for this ex-

tremely destitute community on the outskirts of Lima. In addition to the drugs they get from Canadian sources free for their clinic, they have to spend, in these most discouraging circumstances, about \$800 each month on pharmaceuticals alone.

Honourable senators, I consider this work to be of an heroic character. These people give two, three or four years of their lives to it, because the Peruvians have not the trained people to do the work. Most of these Canadians are French-speaking from the Province of Quebec, and receive extremely low pay for what they do.

It seems to me—I could not help think at the time, and have thought so since—that as we in Canada plan our external aid, we might give serious consideration to establishing even a minor program of help for projects of this kind. It is technical aid in the very real sense, and it is urgently needed.

When I was in Santiago the ambassador there held a reception, to which some 60 Canadians working in Chile were invited. As was the case in Peru, some of them were clerics, but many of them were laymen and laywomen. They, too, are working in the field of social service, and they are rendering this service for low salaries, and have done so for a number of years.

As I have said, this is technical aid, voluntarily provided to countries which need this kind of assistance. They are teachers, social workers and scientists of various kinds. I believe that the image of Canada is higher in each of these countries because of the work these people do.

In many of the places I visited representatives of the press came to see me. Invariably, they asked whether Canada was considering joining the Organization of American States, and in every case I replied that Canadian membership is likely to come in time, if it is desired by the other members. However, if it comes, Canadian public opinion must be more conscious than it now is of conditions in Latin America and of the extent of Canadian interests in that region. I went on to emphasize, however, that even if Canada is not now a member of O.A.S., this fact does not prevent the development of closer ties between Canada and these countries—ties of an economic, a political and of a cultural character. Already they are developing. A good foundation, even if it is modest, is now being laid, and the prospects for the future are promising. It will not only be for the Government, but for the business community as well and for people engaged in cultural activities of all kinds, to develop initiative in this respect.

In conclusion, may I pay a very special tribute to the Ambassador of Canada in Lima,