

I believe, for instance, that Canada's Commonwealth policy, on the one hand, and its policy toward French-speaking countries, on the other, which in both cases seek a tightening of existing ties, play an important and positive role in Canada's internal equilibrium.

QUESTION (12):

Does Ottawa think that Canada has a special role to play on the international chess board, as one of the top "secondary powers"?

ANSWER:

Certainly, and I think that I have already explained how and why. However, there is no particular niche reserved for us in the temple of history. The great powers occupy the front of the stage. The middle and smaller powers, for the most part, want to play a role beyond their frontiers. We have a store of friendships, of affinities, of practicalities, of unselfish acts, all creating what we might call a good name, that we have formed over the years. Our international policy will be effective in the measure that we know how to be witnesses and fair interpreters of international realities transcending our special interests. I think we should pursue our task without impatience but with vigour.

QUESTION (13):

What is the present Canadian policy towards the Organization of American States?

ANSWER:

The present policy of the Canadian Government remains that which I have described on numerous occasions in the House of Commons. The Canadian Government is very much interested in the activities of the OAS and is already a member of three of its agencies: the Inter-American Radio Office, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History. Canada continues to follow attentively OAS problems by sending observers to some of the meetings of its specialized agencies. Early this month the Canadian Government, indicating thereby its increased interest in the affairs of the hemisphere, signed an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank whereby Canada agreed to make available \$10 million to finance economic, technical and educational assistance projects.

With regard to the entry of Canada into the OAS, I believe that time must take its course. Canadian public opinion is more and more interested in Latin America. However, it is my belief that one should not place too great importance on the institutional aspect of our relations with the American states when, in addition to the links already mentioned, we maintain diplomatic relations with all countries of the OAS and have the opportunity of a continuing exchange of views on all questions of common interest.