

form of technical assistance in agriculture. We would like to contribute as much as possible to the work of the Institute, and the information and services which would be made available through membership would help us to apply our aid program more effectively.

Canada will also submit application soon for membership in the Inter-American Institute for Social Security and the Inter-American Indian Institute.

Finally, we have studied the best method of co-operating more closely with the Inter-American Export Promotion Centre. During last November's visit to Ottawa by the Centre's Director, and in subsequent discussions, we have been considering placing Canadian specialists at the Centre's disposal. We recognize the importance of export promotion for the Latin American countries and we hope that Canada can make a useful contribution to the work of the Inter-American Export Promotion Centre.

This brief examination of the increasing institutional links between Canada and the rest of the hemisphere would not be complete without mention of our close co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank, which, for over six years, has administered Canadian funds used for economic development in Latin America. We also participate continuously in the work of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administrators, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies and the Inter-American Statistical Institute. For a long time we have been a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America. We believe that Canada has a place in these specialized organizations and that it can play an even more important role, and we are now in the process of examining ways of attaining this objective.

CANADA AS OAS PERMANENT OBSERVER

Now I come to the crux of the matter of our co-operation with the other nations in the hemisphere. We believe that it is essential to establish satisfactory institutional links between us. You will therefore understand our hope that you will agree to the creation of a Canadian permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States.

We are looking for concrete ways to co-operate with you in the area of social and economic development. An observer mission would not only be accredited to and co-operate with the Organization of American States, but would also be an integral part of the Canadian Governmental apparatus, committed to furthering our relations with this most important inter-American Institution. It would be a bank of considerable technical knowledge on the mechanisms of co-operation in our hemisphere and an invaluable source of information for our guidance in allocating funds for Latin America. Decisions that Canada must make will be based on a better understanding of Latin American needs if we receive regular and documented information from the Organization of American States.

We believe that a Canadian observer mission

would also be beneficial to the Organization and its members. Closer co-operation with the Organization of American States is to us an important aspect of Canadian policy on Latin America.

We know that certain difficulties may stand in the way of this proposal, and we recognize and understand these problems. I therefore request your co-operation in reaching this goal. As the former Prime Minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson, said in this report *Partners in Development*:

It is our view that a world-wide co-operative campaign to set the developing countries on a path of rapid growth toward economic independence is a task within our range of accomplishment. It is a noble goal, to which mankind is called in the last third of the twentieth century.

PEKING PLEASES PING PONG PLAYERS

On their return to Canada on April 18, members of the Canadian Table Tennis Association who had been invited to play in the Chinese People's Republic with other international teams, described Chinese hospitality as "overwhelming". Members of the other teams agreed, said Derek Wall of Toronto, the Canadian team captain.

The teams had been competing in a series of games in Singapore and Japan when Mrs. Margaret Waldon, secretary-general of the Canadian Table Tennis Association, who was accompanying them, was unexpectedly invited by the head of the Chinese group at the world table-tennis championships in Japan to visit China. They visited Hong Kong after leaving China.

The Canadians were taken through several cities prior to playing before a crowd of 18,000 people on April 16 in the Capital Stadium in Peking, where the Canadian men's team won five games to the Chinese four; the Chinese women's team beat the Canadian women by five games to three.

Mr. Wall, who is also the Canadian champion, said that the Chinese had been more concerned with showing friendship than playing table tennis. He believed that they wished to be friendly and that "this was their way of showing it".

A return visit by the Chinese was "contemplated", said Mrs. Waldon.

CANADA-IRAN CREDIT PACT

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced recently that a \$100-million line-of-credit-agreement had been entered into by the Imperial Iranian Government and the Export Development Corporation. "This will provide an opportunity for as many as 35 Canadian companies, mainly manufacturers of electronics and construction equipment, to make sales to Iran," the Minister said. "Several contracts are already being negotiated and I expect an announcement of some specific orders will be possible in the near future."