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*L'ambassadeur au Mexique  
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
Ambassador in Mexico  
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

LETTER No. 19

Mexico City, January 14, 1953

OBSERVER STATUS FOR CANADA AT 10TH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
TO BE HELD IN VENEZUELA LATE IN 1953

Reference: Our despatch No. 479 of November 19, 1952.

I do not propose going over ground already covered in the despatch under reference or in Mr. Wrong's despatch No. 2074 of September 25, 1952. With the views expressed in both those despatches I am in complete agreement. I would, however, like to go over some aspects of this question which may bear a little emphasis.

2. In my opinion Canada, at the present time, is taking much too little interest in Latin-American affairs and for that reason does not make full use, except commercially, of existing facilities here, namely eight (at the time of writing) full-fledged diplomatic missions, to achieve some of the desirable aims outlined in the State Department's memorandum of September 23, 1952,<sup>12</sup> which brought about this enquiry.

3. Without actively participating in the work of the OAS, either as a full-fledged member or as an observer at the Caracas meeting, it would I think be possible to go some way towards:

(a) ensuring the continued cooperation of the Latin-American countries in the development of the strength of the free world;

(b) combatting the anti-Yankee campaign which is spreading in Latin America: a campaign fanned by narrow nationalistic groups who are frequently supported by the Communists;

(c) contributing to the fuller acceptance of those liberal principles which are the avowed aim of the Latin-American republics, but which are so frequently contradicted by them in practice; and

(d) solving Latin-American economic and political problems by increased technical assistance, etc.

4. My officers and I have already gone into the question of ways and means whereby Canadian activities in Latin America could be increased without necessarily enmeshing Canada in OAS affairs. You may wish to review my despatch No. D.231 of June 5, 1952,<sup>1</sup> commenting on the Department's draft policy paper on Latin America, in which several such examples are given. In

<sup>12</sup>La date exacte est le 3 septembre ; voir annexe, document 1040.

The correct date is September 3; see enclosure, document 1040.