

He questioned whether Pan Americanism was a good idea for the future, whether Canada would be joining a lost cause, whether by joining the OAS Canada would be strengthening an organization that was polarizing Latin America and the United States and thus increasing rather than relaxing tension between them. He wondered whether Canada - and the United States itself - might be more helpful to Latin America outside OAS than inside.

Professor Albert Legault, Laval University (in a paper presented to a Conference on Canada, Latin America and United States Foreign Policy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, February 17-20, 1972) objected to the provision of the Rio Treaty of 1947 whereby members of OAS may be obligated to apply political and economic sanctions against a member state by virtue of a two-thirds vote.

Professor C.S. Burchill, Royal Roads Military College (in the Victoria Daily Colonist in June 1969) was highly critical of the Caracas Declaration of 1954, which amended the constitution of OAS to permit intervention if "the domination or control of the political institutions of any American state by the international Communist movement ... would constitute a threat to the sovereignty and independence of the American states". (He mentioned this as providing justification for the U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965). He went on to argue that participation in OAS would involve an over-extension of our military commitments.