PRESS RELEASE



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The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian Government has accepted an invitation from the Organization of American States to be represented by observers at the Third annual Ministerial Meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC) which will be held in Lima, Peru, from December 5 to 14. This conference will be preceded by a meeting of experts from November 30 to December 4. Canada was represented by observers at the two previous meetings.

The Canadian observer group to these meetings will be headed by Mr. F. M. Tovell, Canadian Ambassador to Peru. He will be assisted by Mr. R. E. Gravel, Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Santiago, Chile and Messrs. K. G. Ramsay and D. J. McEachran of the Canadian Embassy, Lima, Peru.

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council, which is an organ of the Organization of American States, is concerned primarily with the Alliance for Progress programme. Under this programme, the Latin American and United States Governments have undertaken to promote economic and social development and reform in Latin America. At this ministerial meeting, IA-ECOSOC will conduct its annual review of the Alliance for Progress, analysing the performance of each member country during the past year, and making recommendations for action in the year ahead. Trade problems will also be examined closely, particularly those relating to Latin American economic integration and to Latin America's economic relations with the rest of the world.