

## Chapter III

### A CHOICE FOR CANADA

The Government has already made known its intention to strengthen relations with Latin America. This could be done in one of three ways. A possibility would be to continue on much the same basis as the present, expanding trade and investment and modestly increasing development assistance activities but letting political, cultural and scientific relations evolve largely on an *ad hoc* basis. The Government has rejected this alternative as an inadequate response to the potentialities of the Latin American relationship in the years ahead.

The other way of proceeding is deliberately to broaden and deepen relations with Latin America not only economically but also politically and in the fields of cultural, educational, technological and scientific exchanges. This course, in turn, could be pursued in one of two ways.

One way would be to take the fully multilateral road. While maintaining bilateral relations with individual countries, Canada could apply to join the OAS as a full member.

The other way of pursuing a more sophisticated and broadly-based policy would be systematically to strengthen links of all kinds with the countries of Latin America, embarking upon nation-to-nation programmes in the economic, cultural and political spheres, while at the same time drawing closer to the Inter-American System and some of its organizations without actually becoming a member of the OAS.

#### The Question of Canada Joining the OAS

##### *The Evolution of the OAS*

The Organization of American States is the paramount regional association to which most independent countries of the hemisphere belong. It is the central organization of the Inter-American System, which is made up