

would not tolerate any further Cuban intervention in Africa or elsewhere. Looking at this statement, and the *New York Times* editorial sharply criticizing those of Mr. Trudeau, one is perhaps in a better position to judge the prevailing mood in the United States. In such circumstances, an independent policy enables Ottawa to indicate clearly that the interests of the Canadian people are the primary consideration in evaluating the importance of our relations with other countries.

### Canadian presence

The second hypothesis involves Canada's presence in Latin America. On the strictly economic level, there is no doubt that Canadian aid and the Canadians living in Latin America are very positive influences. In Cuba, Canada's support for the Cuban revolution was emphasized. If, even as a long-term possibility, a thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations is foreseen, it is extremely important for Canada to guarantee the continuity of its presence through cooperation with the Latin American countries. The major benefit from this presence is the assured market for Canadian goods in these southern nations. It is obvious that, on the international scene, Canada must enlarge its field of activity through solid ties based on mutual advantage. Thus Ottawa's request for an extension of the limit of territorial waters from 12 to 200 miles requires the support of the Latin American countries. In the event that the debate on this question pits Canada against the United States, the importance of this support will be confirmed.

The third hypothesis involves the creation of new markets for Canadian products. Since 1975, two sectors of the Canadian economy have been particularly affected by trade with Cuba: the railway industry and agriculture (wheat, flour, wood, powdered skim milk and other products). The value of Canadian products exported to Cuba rose from \$81.9 million in 1973 to \$144.7 million in 1974, and was expected to reach \$165 million in 1975. What gives a special quality to this aid relation is the impressive growth of Cuban exports to Canada. From \$16.6 million in 1973 they rose to \$76.3 million in 1974, and a figure of \$100 million is expected for 1975. During this period, the products Canada buys from Cuba have remained the same — the most important being sugar, tobacco, seafoods and rum. Sugar is the product most responsible for the increase in export values. Cuba sells an increasing amount of it to Canada, and in this way can earn foreign exchange

while retaining the benefits of an economic structure that safeguards its sovereignty and independence. To emphasize the importance of the Cuban market for Canada, we need only mention that Canada is third among the island's suppliers, after the Soviet Union and Japan. To overtake Japan in the Cuban market would be seen as an important victory by the Canadian Government in seeking world markets for Canada's products.

### Only interests

In an excellent article in *Le Devoir* in February 1976, Professor Jacques Gélinas, after a detailed analysis of the economic and political issues in Canada-Cuba relations, came to the conclusion that "Canada, despite appearances and in relation to its attempt to carve out an independent foreign policy, 'has no friends, only interests'". The word "interests" must not be interpreted too narrowly. Canada certainly seeks to satisfy those interests that can be of value to the nation and the Canadian economy. In the case of Cuba, however, Canada's presence exceeds these limited bounds. In effect, Cuba is a Third World country that has set itself, with no small degree of success, squarely on the road towards a healthy, development-oriented economy. In contrast to the other countries in this situation, Cuba seeks, above all, to stabilize its economic autonomy. (This is also true of its relations with the Soviet Union.) According to Professor Gélinas, Cuba has gone even further, in having "accomplished a certain internal accumulation of capital and a steady growth in its productive capabilities". Having adopted a policy of international aid as the basis for most relations with less-fortunate countries, Canada seems to have found Cuba an interesting example of development.

Prime Minister Trudeau's visit was the crowning touch to a year of intensive discussion between representatives of the two countries. It was in March 1975 that Mr. Gillespie initiated closer Canada-Cuba relations with the signing of a \$100-million line of credit for Havana. Since then, joint projects worth \$500 million have been announced. There is a great variety of products involved, including iron and steel, pulp and paper and rail and maritime commodities, as well as the output of animal husbandry and dairying and of the hospital sector (notably pharmaceuticals). To this impressive list of products can be added the technical-training programs organized by Canada and the continuing growth of Canadian tourism in Cuba (6,000 to 12,000 visitors

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