



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA SEEKS CLOSER LINKS WITH LATIN AMERICA

An Address by Mr. André Ouillet, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the First Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, San José, April 13, 1971.

...Last year we explained to the General Assembly the philosophy and thinking underlying the new orientation of Canadian foreign policy, referring particularly to my Government's decision to intensify relations with our fellow countries in Latin America. This policy decision was prompted not only by a greater Canadian awareness of the Latin American reality but also by our growing community of interests and the recognition that Canada must play a fuller part in the development of the hemisphere. We should like to translate these desires into practice by associating ourselves now with Latin American efforts in the area of social and economic development.

My intention in these brief remarks is not to set forth the various types of aid or the amounts we allot for development. For the moment I merely wish to assure you that we are directing an increasing proportion of our development-assistance budget to countries in this hemisphere and that we have already visited several countries in order to identify the priorities of the governments concerned.

The goals we have set for intensifying our relations with Latin America are well on the way to realization. For example, we hope that negotiations now in progress will result in Canada's admission this year to several inter-American organizations.

We have discussed with the authorities of the Pan-American Health Organization our role and obligations within the Organization, and we expect that a formal Canadian application for membership will be submitted within a few weeks. We in Canada have a very high regard for the work of this Organization and are looking forward to taking a full part in its activities.

Preparations for Canadian membership in the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences are also at an advanced stage. We had the honour of welcoming the Institute's Director-General to Canada last year, and I had