



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 19 No. 36

September 2, 1964

CONTENTS

Canada and Latin America: Challenge and Response...1

Canada at UN Nuclear Conference.....3

A New Airport Amenity3

Visit of Norwegian Minister3

CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA: CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

"The Latin American area is one that has been sadly neglected by our schools, colleges and newspapers," the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, told the Second Annual Banff Conference on World Development on August 24, "but there are hopeful signs that this situation is changing... There are indications that in our university world more attention will be given to Latin America, its history, its economic and social problems and its cultures and languages."

Mr. Martin's address continued as follows in part:

...As is well known, there has been significant Canadian investment in Latin America, some of which dates back many years. The best-known case is the substantial investment in public utilities in Brazil, though there is also Canadian investment in electrical enterprises and mines in some other countries. At one time, some of our life-insurance companies were active in the area, but this has been less so in recent years. Several of the Canadian banks are represented in Latin America, notably in the Commonwealth countries and territories of the Caribbean, but also in the island and neighbouring mainland republics.

Our trade with the Latin American republics — that is, apart from what we formerly called the West Indies — was valued at some \$650 million in 1963, about \$270 million being Canadian exports and \$380 million imports. Of the latter, it is only right to point out, to keep things in proportion, that nearly two-thirds of our imports from the area consist of petroleum products from Venezuela. Our total commerce with the Latin American republics constitutes only 4 or 5

per cent of our world trade, but I consider it has greater significance than this figure might suggest. For one thing, we have an interest in diversifying our trade outlets so that they are not confined to a very few, though important, markets. Furthermore, because of the economic potential of Latin America, I think that the area deserves our special attention so as to establish a basis on which to build in the future.

It could be added that Latin America has received a very large share of the total of export financing provided by the Canadian Government through the the Export Credits Insurance Corporation. Some \$100 million of such credits have been extended to four Latin American countries in the past three years, notably for paper-mill equipment and related engineering services in Chile and for locomotives and rails in Mexico.

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES

One of the most significant elements of the Canadian presence in Latin America is the number of Canadian missionaries in the area. There are now some 1,500 Canadian Catholic missionaries serving throughout Latin America. These include parish priests, members — both men and women — of teaching orders, nursing sisters, and social workers. This is a development of quite recent years — indeed, much of it over the last four to five years. The majority of the Catholic priests and nuns are French-speaking Canadians, although there are a number who are English-speaking.

(Over)