

learning more about the early history, the indigenous peoples, the independence movements and the origins of political and social systems in Latin America.

This question also has an economic dimension. In developing and developed countries alike, the pursuit of social justice must proceed hand-in-hand with economic development. At the same time economic disparities between have and have-not nations must be reduced. In Latin America, while most countries possess relatively advanced growth centres, the pressure of population in those countries is on the whole heavy⁽¹⁾, there is increasing concentration in urban complexes, and the *per capita* GNP in most of them is less than \$500 *per annum* compared to a Canadian average of almost \$3,500 (Canadian) in 1968.

The natural resources of Latin America are probably vast; at any rate, they are to a large extent untapped. In due course judicious application of technology may well bring all the countries of that region to the point of economic "take-off" which a few of them have already reached. In the meantime, however, they face a difficult period in which economic co-operation from outside agencies and governments is very important to them. This co-operation can take such forms as research, transfers of technology, scientific exchanges, and, as will be suggested below, it can take the form of trade. It can also take the form of straightforward development assistance. As part of its accepted role in international development, Canada is already extending development assistance to Latin America on a relatively modest scale. The question now arises as to whether the amount and kind of this assistance, and the channels through which it is provided, should be altered as we move into the seventies.

Although Canada has from the start been a major contributor to UN programmes operating in Latin America, it was only in 1964 that a distinct Canadian programme was directed to Latin America. This took the form of an allocation of a \$10 million development loan fund to be administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This sum was for use by the Bank in extending long-term, low-interest development assistance loans to member countries. Since that time, the Canadian Government has annually allocated the same amount for the same purpose, and the total made available now amounts to \$60 million. All loans must be approved by Canada as well as by the Bank, and there are provisions for Canadian equipment content and, where appropriate, for employment of Canadian

(1) The total population of Latin America is now about 265 million. At the present rate of growth it will reach 380 million by the end of the present decade and more than 600 million by the year 2000.