

We already have close relationships — diplomatic relationships — with the Latin American countries. Of our some 58 missions, 11 are in Latin American countries.

The meeting of the Organization of American States will take place in Quito in May of 1961, a year away. It is of interest that in addition to governments which are members of this Organization, the Council plans to invite non-members to participate in the Conference with the status of observers. This particular suggestion of the planning committee indicates a willingness that Canada in any event might be represented at Quito by an observer.

... We are a member of a number of organizations; we are a member of the Commonwealth of Nations; we are a member of NATO, and I can only say this, that any announcement of a decision in this regard would be made in Parliament but that I would not at any moment, even before a full consideration of all the pros and cons, deny the possibility that Canada's presence as an observer might some time be contemplated in any event.

That evening, at a buffet dinner given by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker were able to meet members of the Mexican Government, the diplomatic corps, and the Canadian community in Mexico City.

On the morning of April 24, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker took their leave, bringing to a close a visit which bore witness to the close and cordial ties linking Canada and Mexico.