

CHAPITRE X/CHAPTER X
AMÉRIQUE LATINE
LATIN AMERICA

PREMIÈRE PARTIE/PART 1

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE DE L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

456.

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*Le sous-ministre adjoint des Finances
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

Ottawa, May 26, 1959

Dear Sir:

Attention: Mr. R. Grey

In your letter of May 13, 1959,[†] you asked for our views on the suggestion that Canada should display more interest in the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America by sending observers on a regular basis to the plenary sessions of ECLA and to those meetings of its subsidiary bodies which are of special interest to Canada. You explained that your suggestion was intended to meet the pressures on the Government to take a more active part in Latin American affairs. These pressures come primarily from Canadian exporters and from Latin American Governments.

The Canadian exporters in question are a small, but vocal group. They claim that they are losing their markets in Latin America and other under-developed countries because they cannot offer credit terms as favourable as those given by their competitors. Their efforts therefore have been directed towards obtaining from the Government medium and long-term credit facilities.

The Government will be introducing during the current session of Parliament amendments to the Export Credits Insurance Act which should go a long way towards meeting the demands of the exporters.⁵⁰¹ The pressures from this group should therefore diminish. In any event, I doubt whether more active Canadian participation in ECLA could do much to satisfy the real demands of Canadian exporters. An initial favourable reaction might turn into a feeling of disappointment and frustration if, as seems likely to be the case, the course of action which you propose was not followed by concrete results in terms of higher sales. For these reasons, I do not believe that the pressures from Canadian exporters to which you refer in your letter should weigh very heavily in deciding whether to take a more active part in ECLA.

⁵⁰¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

This is a commercial not a financial question. [Auteur inconnu/author unknown]