

On July 15 the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated that it might be that the time had come for Canada to consider joining the Organization of American States. "I think it would be a step forward", he stated, "but it is of sufficient importance to warrant some time being given for consideration of the matter by the Canadian people".

Canada and Ecuador have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. The Canadian Ambassador in Bogota will be accredited to Quito, and a Chargé d'Affaires will be in charge of the Embassy in Quito during the absence of the Ambassador. Ecuador is appointing an Ambassador to Ottawa.

Cuba

The Canadian Government watched with growing concern the tense situation that developed in the Caribbean area largely as a result of rapid and fundamental changes in Cuban domestic and foreign policies. In a statement in the House of Commons on December 12 concerning trade relations with Cuba, the Prime Minister said that it was the Canadian Government's wish to maintain with Cuba, consistent with Canada's relations with other countries, the kind of relations usual with the recognized government of another country. No export permits were issued for the export to Cuba of arms, munitions and goods classified as strategic. To prevent what would have amounted to the bootlegging of goods of United States origin to Cuba as a result of the United States embargo against that country, no export permits were issued by the Canadian authorities for the re-export from Canada to Cuba of goods of United States origin which that country would not have allowed to be shipped directly. Within these limits, the Prime Minister stated that there could be no valid objection to trade with Cuba as with other countries and that individual businessmen concerned would have to make their own judgments on the prospects for trade possibilities. He also expressed the hope that, in so far as mutually beneficial relations were maintained or developed, conditions in Cuba might be eased and the general relations of Western countries with Cuba might be promoted.