

quite sure that we are making no mistake in trying to build up friendly relations with all the Latin American states. They have a great deal in common with us; they are very much interested in Canada and very friendly to us. This was a very good field in which to build good relations.

Mind you, we will do the same thing in every other area of the world where we think it is possible. It is for that reason, with the same approach, that we have had Mr. Asselin and the other parliamentary observers from Quebec province, regardless of party, making a special effort at the recent United Nations session to build up good relations with the French-speaking states of Africa. I think Canada has to get the friendship and support of as many countries as possible if she wants to exercise influence in world affairs.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I call the minister's attention, when he is talking about public opinion being a necessary condition as a precedent to the formulation of government policy, to the fact that he might note with interest the attitude taken by the Leader of the Opposition the other day expressed in a statement that the time will come when Canada should give sympathetic consideration to joining the organization of American states. I suggest to the minister that this attitude that we have to wait for greater expression of opinion is a new departure in the formulation of foreign policy and one that, under the circumstances, could be regarded as dilatory and dangerous because, for instance, we did not wait for a plebiscite on NATO or as to whether or not we should join SEATO. It seems to me that those are decisions a government has to take in accordance with its appreciation of all the facts, all of them not being open to the public. However, the minister has taken his position.

Mr. GREEN: I did not say anything about a plebiscite. You will know, Mr. Martin, that all the prime ministers of Canada—certainly Mr. Mackenzie King was no exception—have waited sometimes for a very long time before making a decision on policy. I doubt that speed can be expected or should be expected on issues of this kind.

Mr. HELLYER: Can the minister say how he proposes that the consensus of the Canadian public will be taken? He has rejected the possibility of plebiscite or referendum? Does he propose that it be done by canvassing newspaper editorials, talking Gallup polls or just by listening to the grass?

Mr. GREEN: This will not be a case of "conscriptio if necessary but not necessarily conscription".

Mr. HELLYER: But something rather close to it in a different context.

Mr. MACQUARRIE: I was going to preface my question by saying that I think it is clear that under the minister's leadership we have developed closer and better relations with Latin America than ever before; but I was wondering if he has sensed in his statement in the last session any expression of Canadian opinion which would lead him to believe that our populace is more kind to this move? The Gallup poll taken a decade ago indicated 80 per cent of the people of Canada did not know what the Pan American union was. In the light of the events in the Caribbean, the people are more familiar with what it is. I wonder if he sees a greater awareness of the area and any deepening of feeling among Canadian people that closer relationship with this hemispheric organization would be in the Canadian interests? I am sure his speech last year must have stimulated interest among Canadian people. I encountered it in various parts of Canada, especially among university groups.

Mr. GREEN: I believe there is a much greater awareness of the problem now, and that has been increased by the troubles in Cuba. The trouble in Cuba, in so far as they affect the question of Canada joining the organization of American states, has had a bearing on it. Some people say it proves that we should not join the OAS, that we should have nothing to do with it; others