

1048.

DEA/2226-40

*L'ambassadeur au Venezuela  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
Ambassador in Venezuela  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH 267

Caracas, December 30, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

OBSERVER STATUS FOR CANADA AT 10TH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO BE HELD IN  
VENEZUELA LATE IN 1953

Reference: Your Despatch No. X-179 of October 28, 1952.<sup>11</sup>

One of the unfinished matters awaiting me was your above mentioned despatch.

2. It is rather difficult for me to make any comments or suggestions in regard to the desirability of a Canadian observer to attend the 10th Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States. In view of the recent changes in the political situation here and also, I understand, the fact that one of the matters which might come up for discussion would be the granting of asylum to political refugees which might be a very contentious matter, it is quite possible that this conference may not be held at the time and place suggested.

3. It would appear to me that should we accept an observer status at such a meeting that this would mean opening the door to an invitation to full membership which, if it were accepted, would put us in a position of at some time or other, having to support the other English-speaking member (U.S.A.) or support the Latin-American group which would seem to be a very undesirable position to be in.

4. I have not had the opportunity to get the feeling as to whether or not our relations with the Venezuelan Government and people will be in any way improved as a result of appointing an observer and subsequently obtaining membership but for the reasons indicated above, I feel that it is undesirable.

HENRY G. NORMAN

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<sup>11</sup>Le document 1045./Document 1045.