

In the days prior to the election of 1963, Maclean's carried an article by Knowlton Nash entitled "Public opinion in Cuba. Diefenbaker, si! Pearson, no!" The Cubans had liked Diefenbaker's anti-U.S. stand. Nash's impression was that Cubans regarded Canadians as rather like themselves because they were both engaged in a struggle for survival against the U.S.²⁰

The Dominican Republic

Canadians generally disapproved of the U.S. intervention. Letters to the Minister for External Affairs reflect this, although the content is highly emotional and many of the writers appear to have been retired from an active life. But newspapers, television, and radio comment centred on the unilateral action by the U.S. and most hoped that the OAS presence might be able to bring order out of chaos. There was little post-intervention interest expressed.

Summary

In sum, it would appear that the concept of Latin America as a single unit, with its social and economic problems, concerned certain Canadians between 1957-1967. It also appears that Cuba was an important and debateable issue between 1959-1963. What stands out is that, save for Cuba, no other country in Latin America has merited a great deal of attention in the Canadian press or opinion journals. An occasional article on Mexico, Brazil, Argentina etc. may provide information, but the lack of intense or repeated coverage that can shape an informed opinion is missing.