

3. I find indeed that the statement in the final paragraph of the principal advantages to the United States of Canadian membership in the O.A.S. contains more convincing arguments for acceptance of the suggestion that Canadian observers should attend the next Conference. I have long held the view that what Canada would get out of closer association with the O.A.S. was much less important than what Canada might put into it. The fact that the Department of State is of the opinion that Canadian membership would make a contribution of value in a number of different ways is to me a more appealing argument in favour of acceptance of the proposal for a trial run at Caracas in observer status than any enumeration which can be made of direct benefits to Canada which might conceivably result.

4. It would not be beyond our capacity to send a small delegation to Caracas for this Conference, and the experience so acquired would be of value in examining the justification of continuing to pursue our policy of aloofness. The main argument against such a course, however, is that it would thereafter be difficult to disengage ourselves and to refuse further proposals for a continuing closer association with the O.A.S. For this reason I am inclined to hope that you will authorize me to inform the State Department in due course that, while we appreciate the suggestion, we should not like to receive an official invitation at the present time.

H.H. WRONG

1042.

DEA/2226-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, October 8, 1952

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

On September 12, Mr. Morgan, Counsellor of the U.S. Embassy, left with the American Division a copy of the attached memorandum of September 3⁷ on this question which was prepared as a brief for the State Department's use in approaching Mr. Wrong in the matter. It will be seen that the State Department apparently plans to raise with Mr. Wrong the question of Canada accepting *observer* status at the 1953 O.A.S. Conference, although the memorandum includes arguments in favour of Canadian *membership* in the O.A.S.

We recently learned informally from a member of the Canadian desk of the State Department that the U.S. Embassy received the memorandum for its information only, and had no instructions to take up the question with us, but

⁷Annexe, document 1040./Enclosure, Document 1040.