



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/24

## CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA

A report to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External-Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, on May 30, 1960.

Perhaps the House will excuse me if I take a few minutes to give a short report of my trip. The purpose, of course, was to attend the celebrations commemorating 150 years of independence of Argentina and also while in South America to pay brief visits to Chile and Peru.

Roughly speaking, I had in mind furthering the goodwill between Canada and the Latin American countries and also endeavouring to learn something about our Southern neighbours.

I must say at once that I was very much impressed by all those countries which I had the good fortune to visit. Argentina is, I found, very similar to Canada. Of course, they have ranches producing wheat and cattle. They have the great port of Buenos Aires, one of the main ports of the world, and also they are active in the Antarctic just as we are in the Arctic. The population is slightly larger than that of Canada. Argentina ranks in the world today as a middle power, in the same status as our own nation.

There I had a very helpful conference with the President of Argentina and the Foreign Minister. In fact, I had two with the Foreign Minister, having been invited to dinner at the Brazilian Embassy with him by the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Hon. Mr. Lafer, who made such a friendly visit here a few months ago.

Argentina had over 90 delegations visiting the country for this celebration. That did not mean 90 foreign ministers; of course all the heads of delegations were not foreign ministers. It meant that they were entertaining five or ten times as many as 90, which is quite a big exercise, and they did it in an extremely efficient and friendly way. I think it did them great credit.

Of course one had opportunities for meetings and discussions with other representatives, other foreign ministers and other ministers and heads of delegations from various countries. As I