

Visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister

Dr. Horacio Lafer, Brazil's Secretary of State for External Relations, visited Ottawa from March 16 to 18. On the second day of his visit, the following communiqué was issued by the Department of External Affairs:

In a joint declaration of solidarity, the Hon. Horacio Lafer, Secretary of State for External Relations of Brazil, and the Hon. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, today reaffirmed their strong belief in the need for improvement of the standard of living of people throughout the world for the achievement of greater economic, social and political stability.

Both Ministers referred to the collective efforts by their countries being made through the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in which Canada and Brazil are playing an active part. They emphasized the importance of measures which have been and are being undertaken to maintain peace in the world. In this connection, particular reference was made to the fact that Canadian and Brazilian forces for peace are serving side by side in the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East. Dr. Lafer expressed confidence that Canada would play a constructive role in the ten-nation disarmament talks which are now under way in Geneva.

Dr. Lafer explained in some detail the objectives and plans for Operation Pan-Americana, an important initiative of President Kubitschek of Brazil. As part of the practical implementation of Operation Pan-Americana, a special Committee of Twenty-one has been established and Dr. Lafer hoped that Canada might send a representative to observe the forthcoming meetings of the Committee. Mr. Green expressed great interest in this effort for the development of this Hemisphere and said that Canada would study ways and means of co-operating.

The Ministers expressed appreciation of the results which had already been achieved under the existing cultural agreement between Brazil and Canada. They were of the opinion, however, that even more could be accomplished and they agreed to examine methods of increasing the effectiveness of this cultural agreement.

Later, in a meeting with the Honourable Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, attention was given to trade matters in the light of the participation of both countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It was recalled that there exists a long and happy tradition of co-operation between Canada and Brazil in the field of private enterprise. There was agreement among Ministers on the importance of encouraging the continued expansion of mutually beneficial economic relations