

One aspect of change to which the President referred was the pervasive change in development consciousness in the hemisphere. Already the Latin American countries collectively have a respectable development record behind them. Their growth-rates in the second half of the 1960s exceeded those registered in the industrialized countries taken as a whole. More than that, nine-tenths of the resources that went to finance Latin American development in that period had their origin in domestic savings. This is not to understate the problems that remain. But if the commitment to development, to economic growth tempered by social justice, that has so clearly taken root in Latin America carries over into the 1970s, there is no reason why our Latin American friends should not face the future with continuing confidence.

While united in their response to the challenge of development, the countries of Latin America will differ in the prescriptions they see as best calculated to ensure success. This conception of a diversity of means strengthening a unity of ends is one which is close to the Canadian national experience. In the larger aggregation of the Latin American subcontinent, each country will want to contribute to the common objective according to its own particular genius and by taking account of its own particular conditions. Even so, it is clear that the variety of political models which is emerging in Latin America will not stand in the way of regional and sub-regional groupings based on the identification of common interests. Canada has already been able to give tangible expression of its support for one such grouping, the Andean Pact, and was privileged to lend its affirmative voice to the accession of Colombia and Venezuela to the Caribbean Development Bank.

Canada's new policy towards Latin America has two facets. We are determined to strengthen our relations with Latin American countries bilaterally. This we are now doing within the measure of our capacities. We also decided systematically to broaden the coverage and enhance the quality of our participation in the activities of various inter-American organizations. As a first priority, we thought it right to concentrate on those inter-American organizations which have particular relevance to Canadian interests and to whose work Canada is in a position to make a distinctive contribution.

The multilateral facet of our Latin American policy is well on the way to realization. A formal link with the Organization of American States has been established for the first time by virtue of Canada's admission to permanent observer status. A Canadian permanent observer with the rank of ambassador has been accredited to the OAS within the past fortnight. He is expected to take up his assignment by the summer. We regard this association with the matrix of the inter-American system as a key element in the implementation of our hemispheric policy.

Canada has become a full member of the Pan-American Health Organization, and we shall endeavour to play an active and constructive part in its programs. We have applied for full membership in the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and we hope that the formalities involved in our application will soon be completed. We are also exploring the prospects of membership in the Inter-American Indian Institute. We look upon the work of all these organizations as contributing in substantial measure to the larger process of hemispheric development.