

Ideas, then, transcend national or regional boundaries. But even the old, purely geographical concepts have changed with the conquests of science and especially the conquests of the air. The aeroplane, for instance, has made the Northern Hemisphere almost as great a reality to Canada as the Western. Trans-Atlantic flights have brought our people within a few hours of the other Northern democracies, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The deceiving images of Mercator's projection are giving way to the more realistic geography of the air lines. In this new mapping, as in other ways, Canada is a junction point between the old and new worlds.

All that I have said may seem to have little bearing on the question which I feel certain you have been asking me for the last ten minutes. "Why doesn't Canada join the Pan-American Union?"

The short answer is that we have never been asked.

I think I can say, however, without risk of getting into trouble, that this lack of an invitation has not caused us any great distress. This is due, possibly to two things; (1) we are already members of two "Clubs", the "Commonwealth" and the "United Nations"; (2) we are satisfied that our relationships of friendship and mutual interest with the other American countries will continue to grow irrespective of membership or non-membership in any formal organization.

Perhaps our position vis a vis the Pan-American Union - I hope I will not be misunderstood in this - is not unlike that of the maiden who, having been asked why she did not marry her swain, replied that he hadn't asked her. When pressed as to what she would do if he did ask her, she hesitated and coyly admitted that though they were close friends she wasn't sure that they were in love with each other. However, she might add, I will always feel a deep sisterly affection for him and, perhaps, this might eventually develop into love and even marriage.

But whether it is friendship, love or marriage, I can give you an assurance that Canada, which has demonstrated its power and purpose in war and its economic strength in peace, will play its full part to ensure the security and promote the progress of the Americas.