

at one with Latin Americans in attaching importance to a strategy of development that is based on economic growth tempered by social justice. We are playing our part, through Canada's expanding aid program, in helping Latin America to promote that kind of development. We also share some of the same dilemma in our relations with the United States: the search for a formula that will effectively reconcile the benefits of a close and productive partnership with the undeniable impact it has on our national personalities and choices. It is in the interests of Canadians, as it is in the interests of Latin Americans, to find a harmonious way out of that dilemma.

In the course of implementation, our policy has followed two complementary directions. We have endeavoured, on the one hand, to involve Canada more closely in the system of inter-American institutions. But we have also moved forward on a bilateral front to add content and meaning to our relations with individual countries in Latin America.

In plotting our course, we have been guided generally by the Latin American paper in the foreign policy review series. We have taken that paper as an indication of the Canadian Government's determination to pursue an active policy towards Latin America. We have not taken it as a detailed blueprint for progress. In some areas, in particular, we have found that the momentum generated by the new policy is already carrying us beyond the immediate targets envisaged in the paper. In others, the prescriptions of the paper may not turn out, on review, to be the ones that are best calculated to achieve our broad objectives in Latin America.

Since our policy paper was published, we have joined three of the most important inter-American organizations. This brings to eight the number of inter-American organizations of which we are now full members. We have also sought and been admitted to permanent observer status in the OAS. But the last impression I would want to give is one of Canada's joining institutions for the mere sake of joining. In essence, we have tried to do two things: we have sought links with those institutions which are key institutions in the inter-American system such as the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank. But we have also joined some of the specialized inter-American organizations operating in areas where we have common interests with our Latin American partners or where we felt that Canada was in a position to make a distinctive contribution.

The question is sometimes asked why Canada opted for permanent observer status in the OAS instead of full membership. It is, I suppose, the question that received the most searching review of all the questions that entered into the formulation of our new Latin American policy. It is often assumed that our hesitation stemmed from Canadian reluctance to complicate our relations with the United States or the countries of Latin America where their views might be in conflict. While that was a factor that might have carried some weight in our consideration of the issue, I do not think it was at any time the decisive factor. We recognized that Latin America was not monolithic in its views, that a diversity of political, social and economic models was, in fact, emerging in Latin America and that, in this much more articulated context, the character of the OAS was also changing. We wanted to observe this evolution at closer quarters to see how it might affect Canadian interests.