

considered that there were two factors tending to bring Canada and Latin America closer in the next few years, viz: mutual interests and the possibility of cooperation in negotiating with the power and influence of the United States; and a recognition that there could be advantages in establishing more direct ties between Canada and Latin America, coinciding with relations with the United States, in such areas as trade, investment, culture and diplomacy.

In April 1975 Professor Francis Bregha (in collaboration with CALA) prepared a working paper on "Canada's relations with Latin America" for the Atlantic Institute's study on Latin America. In it he set forth "convincing reasons" why Canada should become more involved in Latin America and greatly expand her relations with the republics in every sphere, particularly in business. He wrote that the area was an increasingly important market, and mentioned particularly the openings for Canadian expertise gained in dealing with and solving problems very similar to those being faced by Latin American countries. He mentioned the lack of any trace of imperialism in Canadian policy as an advantage in dealings with Latin America, and argued that Canada's experience with foreign investment automatically gave it an appreciation of Latin sensitivities on the same subject.

In the sittings of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs in 1975 there were a few brief references to aid programmes in Central America, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, and in Latin America in general.