

1095.

DEA/2226-40

*Le chef de la délégation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Chairman, Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations,
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 97

New York, March 19, 1953

RESTRICTED

CANADA'S OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Reference: Your telegram Permdel No. 129 of March 18.

Following for Wilgress from the Minister, Begins: I agree with course recommended in above-mentioned telegram. Ends.

1096.

DEA/4035-40

*Note du chef de la Direction de l'Amérique
Memorandum by Head, American Division*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, September 14, 1953

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

In the course of a conversation which I had with Mr. Heitor Lyra, the Brazilian Ambassador, who had come to see me in order to introduce his new secretary, Mr. Mario Calabria, Mr. Lyra enquired whether, should the Council of the Organization of American States establish a category of Observer States (i.e. Canada), Canada would be prepared to attend as an Observer the Tenth Conference of OAS at Caracas on March 1 next. Mr. Lyra stated that the Brazilian Ambassador to OAS in Washington had made this enquiry of him.

2. I said to Mr. Lyra that I did not quite know whether Canada would, under the circumstances outlined by him, attend as an observer. We had not yet thought the matter through. Mr. Lyra pointed out that a proposal to establish a status of Observer States to the OAS would meet with general approval though personally he thought that Argentina and Guatemala, for instance, might raise some slight objections on the basis that Canada should come in either as a full member or not at all. Mr. Lyra thought that once Canada became an Observer State it would, sooner or later, feel the necessity of joining the OAS, but he would not make any assessment of the time factor. Mr. Lyra thought that the United States would much welcome Canada's participation in the OAS, since Canada would then help to interpret the USA to Latin America. I pointed out that we could readily see this role of a catalyst, a role which was fairly important but did require a continuous provision of energy if the role is to be played at all! In fulfilling such a role on occasion, we had found that it made heavy calls upon our Departmental energies and expansion could not be lightly contemplated. I also said that Canada might find it embarrass-