

There is, of course, a great disparity of power and there are some fundamental differences in our respective positions in the world. Friendly as our relations are, we do not necessarily always reach the same conclusions about world affairs. We do, however, have the greatest respect for the high sense of duty with which the American people have taken on heavy obligations of world leadership.

Perhaps the heart of the matter is we have no reason to fear our Southern neighbour, no desire to flatter her and every expectation that by contributing our own independent viewpoints we shall continue to work constructively with her for the welfare of the Canadian and American peoples and in many good causes throughout the world.

#### Commonwealth Caribbean Countries

With the Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean we have traditionally had a special relationship, which is now assuming new and greater significance. The Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference which was held in Ottawa in July at heads-of-government level represented an important step towards the establishment of a process of closer consultation and practical co-operation among the Commonwealth countries of this Hemisphere.

The conference provided an opportunity for discussions over a very wide range of subjects: trade, development assistance, transport and communications, migration and cultural relations. A Protocol to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement in 1925 was signed and various ways of strengthening our trade ties were examined. Measures were announced which it is hoped will enable Canada, through its programme of aid, to assist more effectively in the efforts the Commonwealth Caribbean countries are making to develop their economies.

At the Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference, the nations participating affirmed that "Commonwealth countries in the Western Hemisphere emphasize the great value they attach to their relations to the United States and the many countries of Latin America which make up the membership of the Organization of American States".

The special relationship which links the Commonwealth countries of this Hemisphere, like the Commonwealth relationship itself, is not to be regarded as exclusive or as an obstacle to the establishment and maintenance of close relations with other countries. We attach great importance to consultation and co-operation as exemplified by the Commonwealth Caribbean-Canada Conference and we anticipate that there will be further valuable meetings of this sort. It is not our intention, however, that the positions of the various Commonwealth nations with respect to the broad range of hemispheric matters should necessarily be the same.

#### Latin America

There has, of course, been public debate over whether Canada might enter into the particular political relationship with the United States and with Latin American states which membership in the Organization of American States would entail. This debate has sometimes led people to overlook the extent to which our relations with Latin American states in all fields have steadily developed.