

Canada and Latin America

Finally, as we survey Canada's rôle in world affairs, we should never neglect the close friendship we enjoy with the other nations of the Western Hemisphere--the 20 Latin American nations to our south. Like ourselves, they are determined to be independent and to reach their own decisions in international affairs. Several, like us, are middle powers, and, like us, are exerting growing influence in the councils of the world. I have found co-operation with Latin American countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Argentina--to name only a few--both natural and useful in the United Nations, and I look forward to an intensification of Canadian trade and political relations with all Latin American states. I believe that many of you here today, with your far-reaching business connections, have much to contribute towards this objective.

Now I come back to my text--that no nation faces a greater challenge in world affairs than Canada--and that no nation has a greater opportunity for leadership.

Perhaps Canada could play a decisive role in bringing about world peace.

In any event let us go into this new decade with the optimism and the courage and the strength of character of our forefathers. If we do, I believe that Canada will end the decade as one of the leading nations of the world.

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