

invitation to send an Observer to Caracas, it will, I suggest, be impossible to avoid the appearance that the Canadian Government is now prepared to play a more active role *politically* in Latin America. I agree too that if we sent an Observer, it would be difficult to avoid increasing our activities in the OAS and thereby giving the impression that we intend eventually to apply for full membership.

2. I understand that a policy paper on Canada's relations with Latin America has been under discussion for the past year in the departments of External Affairs and Trade and Commerce; no doubt Canada's attitude toward the OAS has been thoroughly reconsidered there. In any case the arguments for and against Canadian membership are well known. I should like however to express my agreement with Mr. Wrong's view that the benefits to Canada of closer association with the OAS would be much less important than what Canada could put into the Organization. The question which must be answered therefore is whether Canada is yet willing to assume the added responsibilities which more active participation in the OAS would entail.

3. The State Department memorandum of September 3 is unusually interesting, in particular the last paragraph which indicates the extent to which their views on Canadian membership in the OAS have changed in the last few years. I was also struck by the suggestion in paragraph three that Canadian opposition to membership in the Organization stems from "a somewhat personalized psychological disinclination to be associated with Latin Americans, many of whom they do not respect and frequently distrust." My personal experience confirms the truth of this statement. Moreover I think that Latin Americans are aware of this Canadian feeling toward them and that to be realistic we ought to discount somewhat suggestions that there is nothing but good will toward Canada in Latin America. I do not know how Canadian membership in the OAS would affect the situation but it would undoubtedly force many Canadians to reconsider their attitude toward the inhabitants of this part of the world.

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