

that participation in the regional system will be a logical and necessary corollary to membership in the new universal security organization proposed at Dumbarton Oaks.

There is also an economic argument why Canada should join the Union. Canada will be in greater need of export markets after this war than ever before. Not only has the capacity of our industrial system increased tremendously, but it is going to be harder to sell Canadian products in traditional markets. Thus, Great Britain has always been Canada's best customer; but the capacity of the British to pay for imports has been seriously affected by the war; and it is to be feared that they will buy relatively less from Canada, once hostilities cease, than they did before 1940. Under these circumstances, every effort will have to be made to find new markets. Not only will we have to find new customers in countries like Russia and China, but we will have to increase our trade with Latin America. It may be that membership in the Union of American States would help us do this. One of the principal functions of the Pan American Union is to encourage trade between member states.

Then there is the argument that membership in the Union might help us in the conduct of our increasingly important relations with the United States. As the inter-American community of nations becomes more highly coordinated, an unintegrated State may find itself in a growing position of disadvantage even in its relations with particular States. The United States, for example, will be more inclined to use inter-American machinery and institutions in its relations with other American countries. It has been suggested that, if Canada remains outside the system, the other American States may simply fail to take her interests into account as they did when the Havana Meeting of Foreign Ministers set up machinery for the administration of European colonies in the Americas. It is conceivable, moreover, that our absence from the Union will render more difficult the work of our diplomatic agents in the various American capitals. It may be noted in passing that the Canadian ambassador in Washington was not invited to the recent conversations in that city between American diplomats on the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals.

Canada also has cultural interests in Latin America. This is particularly true of French-speaking Canada. Many Canadians think that membership in the Union of American States would help cement existing cultural ties with the southern republics and foster new ones. Finally there is the question of national prestige. As long as we remain outside the Union, there will be people who will attribute this fact to lack of international status. Canadians are becoming accustomed to looking upon themselves as citizens of an independent State; but in other countries there is still some popular misconception regarding our status. There are certainly many Latin Americans even in educated circles who do not understand the intricacies of the Commonwealth connection. Indeed, the instructions to the United States delegates at the Havana Conference referred to above indicate that misconceptions regarding Canada's status are shared by some officials. If Canada were to become a member of the Union of American States, it might help dispel archaic notions regarding her constitutional and international status.