

refugee claimants. Randall noted that the concept of national security had changed to reflect rising levels of migration and pressures upon borders. Other speakers added that what Latin Americans do with their environment has been shown to exert a significant impact upon global conditions that have or will have a direct impact upon Canada. Another participant expressed the view that Canadian policy reflected very limited and narrow input about what best benefits Canadian national interest. At present, the only people who determine what will happen are those who belong to the business community. Prager responded to some of these views with a number of cautions rooted in history and economics. He argued that Canadians should consider the costs and the benefits of any policy involving national interest. For example, Canadians may wish to strengthen the middle classes in Latin America. If so, we may encounter problems with a country such as Mexico which like Canada sells commodities and raw materials. In such a case, we may find ourselves involved in head to head competition for the same markets.

Business delegates were quick to respond to a number of areas of implied criticism. In their view, foreign investment and democracy in Latin America move hand in hand since without democracy successful investment opportunities would meet only limited success. Canadian businesses interested in investing in a Latin American country wish to identify the rule of democratic institutions and independent judicial processes. Mr. Charles Stedman, Director of Strategic Intelligence for Nova Gas International presented a specific case study regarding the recent construction of the new natural gas pipeline between Argentina and Santiago, Chile, a city beset by high air pollution levels due primarily to the burning of carbon fuels. Although Nova faced legal injunctions filed by some large rural landowners who opposed the pipeline right of way, the company was careful to work through Chilean judicial processes