

and experts in specialized fields could make valuable contributions to the solution of American problems; (5) it would help to round out whatever geographical basis there is to the hemisphere as an international region; (6) Canada's weight would be helpful in efforts to preserve inter-American peace. (It is doubtful, however, that, so long as the basic concept of the North Atlantic Treaty is maintained, Canada's participation in the Rio Treaty would offer any striking gain to security from outside the hemisphere.)

1041.

DEA/2226-40

*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in United States
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH No. 2074

Washington, September 25, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

SUGGESTED PRESENCE OF CANADIAN OBSERVERS
AT THE NEXT INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Reference: Your Despatch EX-1456 of September 13th.

1. I have read with much interest your despatch and the State Department memorandum, of which a copy was enclosed. I have not been approached by either Mr. Freeman Matthews or Mr. Miller⁶ on this subject. Mr. Matthews is at present on leave, and it may be that he will get in touch with me on his return. A good many months have passed since the question of Canadian participation in the Organization of American States was last mentioned to me. It has never been discussed with me except in a very informal manner, usually by Mr. Miller when I encountered him at some social function.

2. If the State Department does put to me the question of the acceptance by Canada of observer status at next year's Conference at Caracas, I intend to adopt a position of cautious reserve. I find the arguments in favour of Canadian acceptance which are set forth in the second paragraph of the State Department memorandum far from convincing. It is quite possible that there would be benefits to Canada on the lines suggested in the first argument, but I should think that we can get in other ways the advantages suggested in the second, third and fourth arguments. The statement of Canadian objections in the third paragraph is, of course, incomplete, and an additional objection not mentioned is the ignorance of the Canadian public of the Organization of American States and the prevailing lack of interest in a closer association of Canada with its operations.

⁶Edward G. Miller, sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires interaméricaines, département d'État des États-Unis.

Edward G. Miller, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Department of State of United States.