

7. It was not hard to follow your instructions to keep out of the limelight and to give the Latin American countries the minimum hope of our joining the O.A.S. There were nine other non-American countries present. They were treated as invited representatives. The distinction made between them and us was that only we were seated at the council table and had a right to speak. It was necessary to use this latter privilege only once, to reply to a welcome from the President of the Session. I attach a copy of what little I said. † Our reception was warm but not effusive and we were at no time embarrassed. The Secretary of the Organization of American States, Dr. Dávila, said to me privately he looked forward to full Canadian membership. Senior Brazilian officials expressed their satisfaction at our presence. The United States representatives showed clearly we were most welcome but did not mention us in the debates, perhaps thanks to your intercession at Washington before the conference opened. The Chief Director of the Economic Commission for Latin America, Dr. Paul Prebisch, seemed to expect we might be used as an example and forestalled it by pointing out in his speech that the case of Canada was not similar to that of other Latin American States because we already were industrialized and developed.

8. Canadian interests were not directly involved. At most, some of the resolutions might lead to the establishment of study groups which might recommend courses of action which might lead Latin American nations to seek the waiver of some of their existing international obligations; and here, the effect, if any, would not be felt for a long time. When subjects of interest to Canada were discussed, the United States said for the most part what we thought needed to be said; our weight would have added little.

9. I think we would have gained nothing from full membership. In most cases we would have agreed with the United States. We could have helped the United States a little and perhaps raised the level of the debates a shade. But, all in all, I saw nothing in it for us.

10. The Ministers announced in their communiqué that they would meet again in Buenos Aires in 1956.

11. Separate notes on various subjects will follow. †

S.D. PIERCE