

CANADA'S DESTINY WITH OAS

The fundamental reason for our not yet having decided to apply for membership in the OAS is our desire to be sure that, in taking on new commitments, we are in a position to meet them fully and effectively. We do not easily assume new obligations and, once we have assumed them, we take them seriously. For my part, I have no doubt whatsoever that membership in the OAS is part of the ultimate destiny of Canada as a country of the Western Hemisphere.

In the meantime, we are adopting a pragmatic approach to the OAS and to our relations generally with the American countries. That our interest in the OAS and its work is growing is undeniable. Canada has, for many years, been a full member of three agencies linked with the OAS. Since 1961, we have sent observers to meetings of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council; during the past two years, Canada has been represented at three high-level meetings of leaders of OAS countries; and, as I have already indicated, we are supporting the work of the Inter-American Development Bank.

We are not content with this. We are constantly searching for additional ways in which we can cooperate in a practical manner with other countries in the Hemisphere, not only through multilateral channels, such as the OAS and its agencies, but also on a bilateral basis.

CARIBBEAN TIES

In discussing Canada's external relations in a Hemispheric context, I must, of course, make particular reference to the Commonwealth Caribbean, where we have special ties arising from historical and other factors. One of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries has now taken the step of joining the OAS, and others have expressed an interest in doing so. It is, I believe, fitting recognition of the developing contacts between the Commonwealth Caribbean and Latin America that the high commissioners of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries in Canada have been included in this gathering tonight.

There is nothing in Canada's special relation with the Commonwealth Caribbean which is in any way exclusive. While we are anxious to do everything we can to strengthen the ties between the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada, we fully recognize that these ties represent an integral part of our own Hemispheric relations, and we welcome the increasing contacts between the independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries and other countries of the Hemisphere.

PUNTE DEL ESTE MEETING

Returning to the subject of the OAS, I should like to say a word about the recent meeting of heads of state at Punte del Este. We took a great interest in this meeting, at the open sessions of which there was a Canadian representative, and we were greatly impressed by its deliberations and by the possibilities of co-operative progress which it seems to open up. The main objective established by the meeting, the creation by 1985 of a Latin American Common Market, holds out great promise for the economic advancement of the Hemisphere.

We welcome Latin American efforts to further economic development and to increase the capacity of Latin American countries to participate in the growth of world trade through measures of regional co-operation and integration. While the precise implications for Canada of the proposed Common Market will become clear only as the project evolves, at this stage we take a positive attitude toward this emergent economic grouping, which is of great potential importance both for world trade in general and for the future development of our own commercial relations with the participating countries.

A more immediate plan for improving the trading position of developing countries, including the countries of Latin America, received support from President Johnson at Punta del Este. This is the plan, which has long been under discussion, to establish a globalized system of temporary preferences for the products of developing countries in the markets of all developed countries. We recognize the importance of President Johnson's decision to seek a consensus in favour of such a system, and we shall be studying the proposal carefully in the context of our continuing examination of various approaches to the problem of improving the trading opportunities of developing countries....

* * * *

ELECTRONICS AID EXPO DRIVERS

Visitors driving to Expo '67 enter, about 20 miles from Montreal, a traffic-control network governed by electronic detectors and patrolled by police on motorcycles, in squad-cars and in helicopters. From this system a stream of information is fed into a computer at the Montreal headquarters of the Quebec Provincial Police, permitting the organization of a smooth flow of traffic into the parking areas provided for Expo visitors.

Standard highway signs have been augmented by hundreds of large blue signs guiding drivers to three special parking-lots near the Expo site. Detectors on approach roads measure the volume and average speed of traffic; others indicate the accumulation of cars on the lots. When a parking area is nearly full (95 per cent of capacity) a controller activates signals at strategic points to alter the directional arrows and divert traffic to other available parking places.

This operation was planned by the Expo '67 Regional Committee on Road Transportation, which consists of experts from the provincial departments of roads, tourism, industry and commerce and municipal affairs, as well as Expo executives, city hall officials and directors of the city and provincial police forces.

The job of guiding U.S. visitors to Expo begins at the border, where booklets are handed out containing maps of the route and brief explanations of the traffic signs throughout Montreal to the parking areas. As soon as they arrive at one of the Expo parking-lots, visitors are whisked by attendants into waiting buses that transport them free of charge to the Expo ground.