

## *The Prime Minister's Visit to Mexico*

A 21-gun salute greeted Canada's Prime Minister Diefenbaker and Mrs. Diefenbaker when they arrived in Mexico City on April 21 to begin a three-day state visit. It was to be a visit in which formality was tempered by spontaneity and warmth, as the opening exchanges between the Prime Minister and President Adolfo López Mateos of Mexico attested. Six months earlier, in October 1959, President López Mateos had been the first Mexican head of state to visit Canada, and, in going to Mexico, the Prime Minister became the first Canadian head of government to visit a Latin American country.

After greeting President López Mateos and his Cabinet in both Spanish and English and inspecting a guard of honour composed of cadets from Mexico's Military Academy, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the President, Mrs. Diefenbaker and Mrs. López Mateos, drove along a twelve-mile route lined with spectators and members of the Presidential Guard to the residence of the Canadian Ambassador. There Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker were met by children from the Canadian Institute of Mexico (a primary school founded by a Canadian), who presented them with flowers to mark their arrival in the capital.

The official ceremonies of a state visit began next day. In the morning the Prime Minister paid tribute to Mexico's 150 years of independence and the valour of its fighting forces by laying a wreath on the Independence Monument in the heart of Mexico City. Troops and bands of Mexico's armed forces took part in this ceremony. Later in the morning the Prime Minister called at the new National University of Mexico to present a large collection of Canadian books to the library and to announce that the University would in future receive as a gift all Canadian government publications.

That afternoon the Prime Minister received an unprecedented tribute when he became the first non-Mexican ever to be admitted to membership in the *Ilustre y Nacional Colegio de Abogados* (college of lawyers). The *Colegio*, the oldest association of its kind in Latin America, recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. Mr. Diefenbaker spoke to his fellow lawyers of some of the basic international issues related to the rule of law, and noted that the choice between rule of law and anarchy had now been squarely posed to society. He went on to say:

The application of the rule of law internationally is the fundamental basis and assurance of peace, and one of the cardinal messages which lawyers throughout the world must carry to mankind is that the rule of law is synonymous with peace . . . I believe that, beginning with world-wide respect for international justice and, in the progress of time, an international control over outer space, ultimately an international police force can be established. Then and only then, will peace under law be attained.

During the day Mr. Diefenbaker took the opportunity to hold conversations with President López Mateos and with the Foreign Minister, Senor Manuel Tello,