

ANALYSIS

It appears from the result of this examination into Canadian public opinion concerning Latin America that there has developed an increasing awareness of the region. Several points concerning this awareness are readily apparent.

- 1) Canadians still regard Latin America as a monolithic unit. There is little comprehension or awareness of the region's many parts, the varieties of peoples, and the various stages of development that exist there.
- 2) Canadians have difficulty distinguishing between Latin America and the OAS. They seem to regard them as one and the same thing; in other words, most commentators feel that it is impossible to be involved in Latin America without being a member of the OAS.
- 3) Canadians become more aware of Latin America and its parts when there is a crisis in U.S. relations with that area. This permits Canadians to demonstrate latent anti-Americanism or their "independence" because of their lack of involvement.
- 4) There is no one in Canada who really knows intimately how the OAS functions. There is a great deal of emotion generated by the OAS, but opinion is by-and-large uninformed as to the role and function of the organization itself. It is possible to say, however, that reasons given for and against Canadian membership, with rare exception, have remained the same throughout the period.