

meant that Canada had in effect become a party to the inter-American defence system. The real situation would hardly have been different had the Canadian Secretary for External Affairs been present at Havana and signed the resolution on Reciprocal Assistance. It also meant that for all practical intents and purposes Canada had underwritten the Monroe Doctrine, a doctrine that had been extended to Canada in 1938, when President Roosevelt had promised that the people of the United States would not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil were threatened by a foreign power.

The resolution on Reciprocal Assistance was also important for another reason. Ever since its formulation in 1823, the Latin American countries had striven to transform the unilateral Monroe Doctrine into a multilateral agreement. That ambition had now been achieved. By its adherence to the resolution on Reciprocal Assistance the United States abandoned its pretension to act as the sole guardian of the Doctrine. This was a development of tremendous psychological importance.

Closely associated with the Monroe Doctrine was the United States "no-transfer" rule. The United States has always opposed the transfer of colonies in the Americas to non-American powers. It will be remembered that the possibility of this happening had been discussed at Panama in 1940. At Havana, the republics "Pan Americanized" the United States "no-transfer" rule and set up machinery for implementing it if necessary. Indeed they went as far as to assert a right to take threatened regions under their administration. By the Act of Havana they created an Emergency Committee which was to assume the administration of any threatened region before the ratification of a convention on the same subject. This convention was the Convention on the Provisional Administration of European Colonies and Possessions in the Americas which provided for the establishment of an Inter-American Commission for Territorial Administration.

The meeting also adopted several resolutions aimed at the growing menace of Axis propaganda and the abusive use of diplomatic and consular agencies.

The object of another resolution was to make each country responsible for preventing its territory from being used as a centre of subversive activities directed against the security of the hemisphere.

Mention may also be made of one other of the many other resolutions. This was a resolution in which, after declaring their belief in liberal principles of international trade, the foreign ministers indicated their intention to do everything in their power to strengthen the economic position of the American republics until other countries were willing to resume trade in accordance with liberal principles. The same resolution conferred additional duties on the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee which had been created at Panama and which by this time had become the most important agency of inter-American economic collaboration.

RIO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (1942)

On December 7, 1941, an attempt was made "on the part of a non-American State against the integrity or inviolability of the territory, the sovereignty or the political independence of an American State." The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour was as much an attack on the Western Hemisphere as if the bombs had fallen on