

This is of interest not only to Canada but also for the newly-independent Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean, Jamaica and Trinidad, as well as those quasi-independent territories which may be expected to emerge to independence in the future. This is one of the aspects to which we are giving special attention. We also have to weigh the responsibilities and obligations Canada would assume on joining the OAS in relation to other demands elsewhere in the world on our resources.

Meanwhile, we are exploring ways whereby a closer and more effective association might be developed with the OAS secretariat and some of the other related agencies to which I have already referred. Merely joining the OAS will not in itself work wonders; what will matter most is the extent to which we show ourselves prepared to co-operate in practical ways with other countries in the hemisphere. We can do - and in fact are doing - a good deal even without being a member. We should not become so preoccupied with institutional questions that we overlook opportunities which may in the meantime present themselves for worthwhile co-operation or that we forget how much we are already working with our friends in his hemisphere.

I have indicated the extent to which Canada is already taking an active interest in a variety of practical ways in Inter-American affairs. Some of this activity is within the framework of the OAS and some of it outside the OAS. Membership in the OAS would present obligations as well as advantages for Canada. I do not wish to leave the impression that Canadian membership in the OAS would be without difficulties. Nevertheless, I consider this to be part of the ultimate destiny of Canada as a country of this hemisphere.

Conclusion

At the United Nations, at NATO, indeed at every international meeting in which Canada takes part, we are confronted with dramatic evidence of the growing inter-dependence of the individual members of the world community. Canada has consistently taken the position that we must recognize and accept this inter-dependence even when it means the maintenance of relations with states whose ideologies we oppose with every strength at our command. Canada has also recognized and, what is more, impressed on other governments as best we can, that a crisis in one area involves all areas. Recent events in the Far East, on Cyprus and, of course, with respect to Cuba have, I trust, brought home to every nation the need in a nuclear age to ensure that we assess the consequences of our actions with full awareness of their international implications.

I can assure you that events in Latin America are now being given due weight in the conduct of Canadian foreign affairs. We are considering here today the future of our relations with a great continent of nations. Changes in these relations must, of course, be made with care and deliberation. There is no doubt that many changes have already taken place but even greater changes than we have yet seen will and must occur. Canada's economic and political