

America are becoming more interested in world affairs. This interest on the part of the people is reflected at the government level. I was one of the members of the ministerial mission which visited nine Latin American countries at the end of last year; during these visits, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and myself were struck by the willingness of the ministers of foreign affairs of these countries to talk with us about several aspects of the situation in the Hemisphere and by their great eagerness to discuss in depth current international problems.

It seems obvious to me that co-operation in the discussion of political problems within the United Nations and some of its agencies is one of the reasons for the political rapprochement which has taken place between Canada and the countries of Latin America. I shall go into the fundamentals of this aspect of the question later on.

My way of conclusion on the geopolitical aspect proper, I should like to mention here the development of our bilateral relations during the past quarter of a century. Between 1941 and 1961, Canada established diplomatic relations with each of the 20 countries of Latin America. At present, Canadian diplomatic missions are located in 14 of these countries. These facts are indicative of a growing mutual interest between the Canadian Government and the governments of these countries. I am sure that this mutual interest will continue to develop in the future.

The necessity of having well-structured relations between the Latin American countries and Canada is, therefore, no longer questioned, and henceforth we can take for granted that the evolution of these relations, particularly in the political sphere, is going to be accelerated. What is still the object of our studies and our consultations is rather the form that these relations shall take in the future, and the place they shall occupy in the scale of our priorities in relation to other countries.

### Economic Relations

Regarding economic relations between Canada and Latin America, I note the same difference as in political relations between the present state of affairs and the future potential. For our country as well as for Latin America, the most pressing long-term economic imperatives are perhaps economic development itself and trade.

Regarding economic development, the position of the Latin American countries is somewhat paradoxical. In the first place, some of these countries are far more advanced economically than the others. This gap has long existed for some of them. At the same time, in many of these countries, there are, on the one hand, striking economic development, fully comparable to that of the most advanced countries, and, on the other hand, very serious economic and social problems which affect a wide segment of the population. It is to these problems that the governments of these countries are increasingly turning their attention, and it is, of course, for them to make the necessary decisions, which in certain cases are of immediate urgency.