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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au représentant permanent auprès des Nations Unies*
*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Permanent Representative to the United Nations*

TELEGRAM 129

Ottawa, March 18, 1953

RESTRICTED. IMMEDIATE.

CANADA'S OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Following for Minister from Wilgress, Begins: When in Ottawa you mentioned that Messrs. Dulles and Lodge had referred to the possibility of Canada attending as an observer the next Inter-American Conference of the OAS in Caracas.

2. From our point of view in the Department we would hope that a decision could be postponed for at least a few months.

3. My reasons for suggesting this are, firstly, that the Conference itself (which was due to be held in the fall of 1953) has now been postponed until February or March 1954. It would seem safer to await until we are closer to the time of the Conference before making a firm decision concerning this quinquennial meeting. A second reason is that a departmental study on the OAS has just been undertaken. It seems necessary to know fully the implications of Canadian participation in the OAS before taking a step — such as attending as an observer — which would bring Canada much closer to this organization.

4. I suggest, therefore, that, if the matter is raised by either Mr. Dulles or Mr. Lodge, you might wish to tell them that the Department is giving serious consideration to the proposal that Canada should attend as an observer the Tenth Inter-American Conference of the OAS but that, in view of the change of date for the opening of the meeting, there appears to be less urgency in coming to a decision.⁶

⁶ Pour une déclaration du premier ministre Saint-Laurent sur la politique du Canada à l'égard de la participation du pays à l'Organisation des États américains, voir Canada, *Débats de la Chambre des communes*, 1952-1953, volume IV, 27 mars, p. 3531.

For a statement by Prime Minister St. Laurent on Canada's policy on the question of participation in the Organization of American States, see Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 1952-1953, Volume IV, March 27, p. 3341.