

V. CONCLUSION

The Task Force

To complete its part in the review of policy towards Latin America, the task force composed of the officials who were members of the Ministerial Mission is now considering its findings. In due course, through the Ministers who led the mission, it will make recommendations to the Government.

Some Possible Steps and Some Policy Alternatives

The objective of the task force is to determine the most effective and appropriate ways in which Canada's relations with Latin America could be strengthened. The task force is examining both present possibilities and more long-range policy alternatives. Some present and future possibilities are indicated in the foregoing pages. The broad policy alternatives to which the task force is at present giving consideration are outlined below.

Political Relations

In the political sphere there is the question of whether Canada should take an early decision to apply for membership in the OAS. Alternatively, the Canadian Government could proceed from the premise that, before seriously contemplating this major institutional step, it would be best for Canada to develop closer bilateral relations with all, or a selected group of, Latin American countries and to increase co-operation with those Inter-American and regional organizations with which Canada is well placed to work effectively.

Either way, it is the view of the mission that there should be more frequent and intensive consultation with Latin American countries on international and hemispheric affairs.

Trade and Economic Relations

The full development of the trade and economic possibilities apparent to the mission calls for a comprehensive review of present practices and procedures in a number of fields with a view to strengthening and expanding two-way trade with Latin America. Among the matters to be examined will be the ways and means:

- of improving inter-governmental consultation and co-operation with Latin America on subjects of common interest, both of a bilateral and multi-lateral character, such as commodity agreements, trade liberalization etc.;

- of helping Latin American countries take advantage of the opportunities available to their exports in the