

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CANADIANS TO ATTEND OAS MEETING

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian Government has accepted an invitation from the Organization of American States to be represented by an observer at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC), which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from March 25 to April 1. Canadian observers are now attending a preceding meeting of experts from March 15 to March 24. Canada was represented by observers at the three previous meetings.

The Canadian observer group to these meetings will be headed by Mr. Jean Bruchési, Canadian Ambassador to Argentina. He will be assisted by Mr. A.B. Bursey, Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires and Mr. B.S. Shapiro, Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Inter-American Economic and Social Council, which is an organ of the Organization of American States, is concerned primarily with the Alliance for Progress Programme. Under this Programme, the Latin American and United States Governments have undertaken to promote economic and social development and reform in Latin America. At this ministerial meeting, IA-ECOSOC will conduct its annual review of the Alliance for Progress, analyzing the performance of each member country during the past year and making recommendations for action in the year ahead. Trade and finance problems, rural development, and the results of the Second Inter-American Conference will also be discussed in the context of the economic and social aspects of the Alliance for Progress.