

birthplace of Simon Bolivar. There are few men whose vision and whose achievements guarantee their name a place in history. There are fewer still whose ideals are so exalted that they remain as fresh and as contemporary today as they were a century and a half ago. In 1819, with Ayacucho still five years distant, Bolivar addressed the Angostura Congress. It was in that speech that he employed words that are still prophetic and inspirational. He said:

"...my imagination, taking flight to the ages to come, is captured by the vision of future centuries, and when, from that vantage-ground, I observe with admiration and amazement the prosperity, the splendours, the fullness of life that will then flourish in this vast region, I am overwhelmed."

Mr. President, a nation that can produce men of the stature of Simon Bolivar is a rich nation indeed. To you and to your countrymen and -women, I bring greetings from the Government and people of Canada.

Though Canadians speak different languages from you, though our history and geography are quite distinct, though our legal system was spawned from a different source, though our institutions of government are of a different model -- a parliamentary model --, we find it to our advantage to identify and pursue activities in co-operation with you that are mutually beneficial. And I hasten to add that there are a good number.

Canada is not a member of the Organization of American States. It is not a member even though the historic 1948 Bogota Charter was worded specifically to permit membership to accrue to "American States" as distinct from the previously-restrictive phrase "American Republics". But, though we are not a member of the OAS, we are very much a participant in the inter-American system. Since 1970, when my Government carried out a thorough foreign policy review as one of its initial major tasks, Canadian involvement in the inter-American system has accelerated considerably. In 1970, while a long-time member of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, we were a member of only one OAS specialized organization, the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History. We are now a member of two more: the Pan-American Health Organization and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. We are participants as well in a multitude of inter-American institutions, the principal of which is the Inter-American Development Bank. Through our association with these agencies and bodies, Canada has acquired in a very few years a broad knowledge of Latin America's achievements