

7. *The Cabinet* noted the report of the Prime Minister on the question of joining the Organization of American States and agreed not to become a member at this time but to continue to be represented at meetings by an observer.

...

2^e PARTIE/PART 2

VISITE DU SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT AU BRÉSIL ET AU MEXIQUE,
LE 17 NOVEMBRE-4 DÉCEMBRE 1958
VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO BRAZIL AND MEXICO,
NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 4, 1958

525.

DEA/11497-1-40

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au chefs de poste à l'étranger*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Heads of Posts Abroad*

CIRCULAR DOCUMENT NO. R.27/58

Ottawa, October 23, 1958

MINISTER'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

The Minister will be in Brazil from November 17 to November 29, and Mexico from November 30 to December 4. These dates are approximative only. In Brazil, he will pay an official visit and will take the chair at a series of meetings with the heads of some nearby missions. In Mexico, he will be Canada's Special Ambassador to the inauguration of President Lopez Mateos.

2. The purpose of the Minister's trip is to bring to Brazil and Mexico the expression of Canada's friendship and, to Latin America as a whole, the assurance that although we are not members of the Organization of American States we earnestly desire to maintain the excellent relations we have always had with all nations of this hemisphere. The Minister does not propose to enter into political, cultural or trade negotiations, although he may well put in the occasional good word in favour of the Canadian position on multilateral or bilateral issues affecting either of the two countries to be visited.

3. Information activities of the posts concerned should be built on the following themes:

(a) This is the first official visit of a Canadian Foreign Minister to Latin America, an indication of the importance which the Minister attaches not only to Canada's relations with Brazil and Mexico, but with Latin America as a whole.

(b) The Minister wishes to familiarize himself further with Brazil, Mexico and Latin America generally, and review or establish friendships with Latin American leaders.

(c) Canada's role as a leading middle power which has advanced from colonial status to a constructive position in world affairs.

4. Other themes to exploit are:

(d) In Brazil and Mexico: the Minister's visit to these two countries indicates the importance he attaches to our relations with them.

(e) In Brazil: joint participation in the defence of freedom and order (Second World War Italian campaign, and UNEF).