

During this, my first short visit to South America, I have had two experiences which have impressed me deeply. Both are typical of the new, the imaginative, the responsible leadership in Latin America. One was the speech made here yesterday by the distinguished constitutional President of Peru, architect Fernando Belaúnde Terry. The other was a speech and a private interview I had with President Eduardo Frei, whose inauguration I attended on behalf of my Government in Santiago last week.

Canada is one of the very new countries of the Americas. We have not yet reached the one hundredth year of our Confederation. We will do this in 1967, and already we are preparing for the occasion. Some of you, I hope, will come to help us celebrate it, if not to attend the next meeting of PACCIOS at least to visit the Universal Exhibition in Montreal in 1967.

The territory of Canada is very large, larger than the territory of the continental United States. On the west coast, we have great resources - fisheries, forests, mines, petroleum, hydro - and the mighty Rockies stand guard over it all. The central plains - our Prairies - are our bread basket, and indeed the bread basket of many parts of the world. Its cattle production is very large. Its petro-chemical industry is expanding. Mining, especially gypsum, is being developed. The older provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in the Laurentian Shield, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin, are where most of our people live. Mining, diversified agriculture, forest wealth, water-power, abound in this region. It is served by highly-developed transportation systems - including the St. Lawrence Seaway - a monument to the co-operative effort between Canada and the United States. In the past 50 years, Central Canada has been the heartland of our industrial development. Our manufactures are widely diversified. We export both consumer and capital goods - and, indeed, engineering and technical services and including management services from the private sector of the Canadian economy. The four provinces of the Maritime region are not so thickly settled. But it is an area of great possibilities and they are actively pursued in a planned development. And our Northland, our last frontier, with its undeveloped subsoil wealth, is exciting the interest of the adventurous and the intrepid. I say nothing about the Canadian scenery. Comparisons are odious, but I do say what I have seen in South America is magnificent and, being from Canada, I claim the experience of an expert.

Canada has less than 20,000,000 people. They are spread mainly now in a ribbon along the northern boundary of the United States from Vancouver Island on the Pacific to Newfoundland on the Atlantic. Our population is not homogeneous. The two founding races were of French and of British extraction. To them have been added Europeans and some Asians, all of great variety of ethnic origin. The conquest of the frontier in Canada has been my country's major domestic achievement. In many respects the work is done. But the knitting together of the parts and of the people continues to occupy our urgent attention.

In our external relations, after our colonial days, we looked principally in two directions. Firstly, to Western Europe, and especially to the United Kingdom; secondly, to the United States. We are a member of the British Commonwealth. Its head is our Queen. But, for some 40 years,