

Yes, I think so, but this government has decided that it will not state any specific target date. We have found that the setting of these target dates imports into our fiscal planning an unnecessary rigidity. When we look back at our history over the last few years, we found that our present priorities were being established by decisions that were made many years ago, and that we didn't have enough flexibility in our fiscal planning to respond to immediate emergencies. So we said, as a matter of principle, we were not going to enter into any rigid commitments. So that our treatment of development assistance is no different to other matters that we have urgently before us. However, what we did say was that every year the proportion of our GNP going into aid would increase. This last year, 1969--or at least the last year for which we have figures--we were at .42%, I think, of GNP on official aid. And this coming year I should think that will go up substantially, so we're not so far away from the .7, but we haven't fixed any specific date to reach it.

Now, turning to another area of the world, we have made some moves toward closer relations with Latin America. Has this part of our policy developed significantly, and do you see any move toward the Organization of American States?

Yes. As you know, in our Foreign Policy Review we decided not to join the OAS at the present time but to bring about closer relationships with that organization and with the various countries in Latin America. We've just nominated a senior officer at our Embassy in Washington as Canadian Liaison Officer to the OAS, and it's our intention that a Canadian permanent observer will be named once the conditions of such an appointment have been agreed upon with the Organization of American States' Secretariat. We're continuing our contribution through the Inter-American Development Bank in capital assistance, and we're in process of starting a bilateral assistance programme that will double Canadian aid in the region. We've just sent a mission down to Latin America. It's returned from visiting certain Latin American countries, and another mission will be making a visit in the next few weeks. We are going to appoint in 1971 some additional personnel to certain of our diplomatic posts in Latin America to assist in administering the expanded aid programme. We've also been looking at the possibility of joining certain inter-American organizations which are linked with the OAS. We're holding discussions with the officials of these organizations, for example, the Pan American Health Organization, and it's hoped that in the next year we'll be able to make some announcements about this.

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Où en est-on présentement dans nos rapports avec les pays de la francophonie, et plus particulièrement avec l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique?

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