



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Statement in the House of Commons February 26, 1959,
by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

I welcome this opportunity to ... place before the House the views of the Government with respect to several matters that concern Canada directly at this time.

Before I proceed to do so, however, I should like to express in a personal vein, indeed in an official vein, my gratitude for the hospitality that was extended to me in Brazil when I paid an official visit of two weeks' duration to that country last November, and also for the hospitality accorded to me in Mexico where I had the honour last December 1 to represent Canada at the installation of the new president, Lopez Mateos. From discussions with leaders in those two countries I learned much, and I saw at close hand the dynamic growth not only of these two countries but of Latin America as a whole. I returned to Canada convinced that through ease of communication, through trade and by virtue of common interests our relations with Latin America can and must grow.

Following the practice I have adopted in the past I will not engage in a global survey this afternoon but will attempt to explain, as I said a few moments ago, the Government's attitude on a number of specific issues.

Germany and Berlin

I was about to say, and perhaps I should say, that the most important and urgent of the problems facing Canada and her NATO allies lies in the field of East-West relations. I approach this subject gravely but not despondently. When I presented my estimates in July of last year, I believe, I spoke of the need to maintain our defences and at the same time to endeavour to make some advance in establishing mutual trust and confidence and in coming to some understanding with the Soviet Union. The Communist leaders, as we all know, have