

have with Ambassador Wrong. The immediate question is whether Canada would accept observer status at the Tenth Inter-American Conference to be held in Caracas in 1953, if an invitation should be extended. Dr. Lleras Camargo, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, is convinced that the action necessary to extend the invitation cannot be taken successfully unless there is good reason to believe that it would be accepted.

The principal arguments for acceptance which might be addressed to the Canadian are: (1) that the gesture of good will would be well received by and would influence attitudes of the representatives of governments with which Canada is presumably anxious to develop increased economic relations, with which she must deal in the United Nations and other international organizations of which she and they are members, and whose continued cooperation in the development of the strength of the free world is indispensable; (2) that, without commitment as to eventual membership in the Organization of American States and its constituent organs, the observer status would offer Canada an opportunity to become fully acquainted with the nature and function of the Organization; (3) that from the purely intelligence point of view, the opportunity to acquire information regarding the activities and motivations of the governments of the twenty Latin American Republics should be valuable to Canada; and (4) that Canadians have participated in Inter-American meetings, such as the recent Consultation on Geography, with what may be assumed to be mutually beneficial results.

The chief Canadian objection is likely to be that acceptance of observer status would be regarded as a first step toward eventual membership in the OAS, a role which they do not seem to wish to assume. Their antipathy toward such membership appears to stem from (1) a somewhat personalized psychological disinclination to be associated with Latin Americans, many of whom they do not respect and frequently distrust; (2) concern lest membership in the OAS might somehow be interpreted as a weakening of bonds with the members of the British Commonwealth and their NATO relationships; (3) opposition to contributing to the costs of an additional international organization; (4) unwillingness to run the risk of becoming involved through the operations of the OAS peace and security machinery in disputes among American Republics; (5) concern lest they be placed in an awkward position in relation to the long standing controversies between the UK and certain of the Latin American countries over territorial matters.

For your own information, some of the principal advantages to the United States of Canadian membership in the OAS seem to be: (1) that this would tend to ameliorate somewhat the unique position of the United States as the only English-speaking member; (2) that another country with a high degree of both the theory and practice of representative government would be a valuable contributor to the liberal principles which are the declared aim of Latin American countries, but which are so often contradicted by them in practice; (3) Canada's membership would remove one of the difficulties in the way of extending the practice of having inter-American specialized organizations serve as the regional units of United Nations organizations; (4) Canadian officials