

might be restricted in future, whether there might be, in that context, some idea of having a further look at Commonwealth preferences.

MR. SHARP: Well, I am unaware of that.

THE PRESS: Sir, on page 6 you say that we have to take greater account of the ties which bind us to the Caribbean and Latin America and explore new avenues of increasing political and economic relations. This will be interpreted in Latin America that we are moving closer to joining the OAS. Is this, in fact, a more definite statement of that policy?

MR. SHARP: Well, perhaps I could say that the Canadian Government is continuing to look at membership in the OAS. It is not, however, a first priority. We believe that ties with Latin America should be strengthened and we do not think the first step in strengthening those ties is to join the OAS. That matter is not first on our list of priorities in our relations with Latin America, but it is not excluded. We believe, however, that Canadian public opinion should be better prepared and that there should be, actually, greater contacts between this country and Latin America before we move into the OAS, if we do.

THE PRESS: Well, Latin American nations do feel that is the best way, sir -- the first step is to join the OAS.

MR. SHARP: No, I deny that. There are some of them who would consider that there are other even more useful things to do.

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, in the paragraph dealing with relations with the United States you say: 'We have to sort out the dilemmas ... posed by the complex relationship between the two countries'. What are your plans for doing that sorting out? You say you are sending a mission to Latin America. Are there any visits or missions planned to Washington?

MR. SHARP: They go frequently. I expect that our relations with the United States will continue to grow and develop in complexity as well as in closeness.