



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 55/25

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY

An Address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin to the Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y., July 11, 1955

It is a pleasant and stimulating experience for a member of the Government of Canada to visit Colgate University and to have the opportunity of participating in these important discussions on foreign affairs. May I, first of all, commend Dr. Charles R. Wilson and his colleagues on the conception, establishment and carrying through of these annual conferences which are proving to be so highly successful in developing an informed public opinion on questions of international significance.

In this increasingly interdependent world, the foreign policy of any nation must be sensitive to changing conditions in many distant places. For this reason it is useful at a conference of this kind to hear viewpoints from representatives of other nations. I understand that, at last year's Conference, speakers from thirty-three foreign countries participated and that no less than ten Ambassadors -- including the Canadian Ambassador to Washington, the Hon. A.D.P. Heeney -- contributed personally to the success of this educational enterprise.

The broad theme of this year's conference is "Peace Through Strength" -- which, unhappily, must still be the watchword of Western diplomacy. Within this framework, tonight's session is devoted to a consideration of how we can achieve hemispheric solidarity. I am happy to be associated in these discussions with such distinguished speakers as His Excellency, Senor Dr. Jose A. Mora, Chairman of the Council of the Organization of American States; the Hon. Henry F. Holland, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; and the Hon E.L. Bartlett, United States Congressman from Alaska.

Indeed, if any visible evidence of hemispheric solidarity were wanted, surely it is apparent in the presence on this platform and the participation in this discussion of representatives coming all the way from Alaska to Uruguay!

Let me begin by asking this basic question: Is it possible or desirable to achieve a real degree of hemispheric solidarity? To answer this question it is necessary to examine the meaning of the term. Just what do we mean by the phrase "hemispheric solidarity"?