

accelerated the signing of risk contracts for exploration with foreign oil companies.

Brazil presents to the potential Canadian investor and entrepreneur a combination of a huge, dynamic domestic market, ready access to technical and managerial expertise, a boundless supply of productive labour and a wealth of natural resources. It is not an exaggeration to claim that the Brazilian economy is normally one of boom conditions, regardless of the economic situation in the rest of the world or of the political situation in Brazil itself. The old Brazilian saying that "the country grows at night, while the politicians are sleeping" still applies.

### Human rights

Political development has not accompanied Brazil's economic miracle. Since 1964, successive military leaders have tended to view modernization as a purely economic goal rather than a political one. As a result, the Brazilian army has suspended many constitutional rights. The power of the labour unions has been broken and a substantial number of union leaders and "political undesirables" have been deprived of their political rights judged by any standards of government - authoritarian, totalitarian or other. This is not to mention the many atrocities committed by the military regime against Brazil's native Indians.

In the United States, the Carter Administration has openly criticized Brazil's dictatorial methods and its violation of basic human rights. President Carter seems to have made the issue of human rights a key factor in his Administration's approach to the distribution of military aid. Already U.S. military assistance in a variety of forms to Argentina, Chile and Uruguay has been reduced. It is significant that the U.S. has made its position clear to the Brazilian Government notwithstanding the important volume of trade that exists between the two countries.

The Trudeau Government has remained silent on this question despite flagrant violations of human rights in Brazil. To date, Canada has tended to be inconsistently responsive on the issue of human rights on the international scene. In December 1977, it took economic measures against South Africa over *apartheid* and before that was instrumental in persuading members of the Commonwealth to expel South Africa. Yet Canada has not reacted effectively to instances of the suppression of human rights in Brazil and other countries of Latin America. Of course it is difficult for any government to establish clear directives as to those nations that qualify for trade sanctions or diplomatic pressure and those that

do not. But Canada has built much of its external reputation on the recognition of human rights, and in this case the Trudeau Government would be in agreement with the Carter Administration on a human-rights policy in the Western hemisphere.

The Canadian Government should break its silence and express its concern to the Brazilian authorities on behalf of those who have been unjustly treated by the military regime. As a permanent observer to the Organization of American States, Canada should seek to participate in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which undertakes to investigate violations in the hemisphere. This step would intensify international pressure and add considerable legitimacy to Canada's growing position in the inter-American system.

It seems probable that, in the years ahead, Canada's economic associations with all of Latin America will increase. This probability, coupled with what now appears to be a shift in Canadian foreign policy towards greater hemispheric assimilation, may be expected to result in a more articulate political role for Canada in relation to the Latin countries of the region. Canada's new commitments to the national development goals of these countries through its contributions to the Inter-American Development Bank and its bilateral project-assistance programs all serve to stimulate a more enduring foreign-policy adaptation in the hemisphere. In the light of such adaptation, the conduct of "Giant Brazil" should not go unnoticed by Canada's decision-makers. Given the experience and confidence Canada has acquired in its dealings with Europe and the Commonwealth, it should no longer refrain from asserting its national values in its dealings with Brazil.

### New influence

Brazil is now regarded as an important new influence in the current balance-of-power system and must be included in the international equation of power along with the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan and Western Europe. There is no question that Canada has accepted this change in Brazil's status. The extension of Canada's relations with Brazil is also associated with the growing recognition by the Department of External Affairs that Canada will in future be inextricably linked in a partnership with the nations comprising the inter-American system. Thus the factors that are bringing Canada into closer association with Brazil will inevitably serve to increase the intensity of its total relations with all of the nations of Latin America.

What should be learnt from Brazil is that, despite its rapid socio-economic

*Violations  
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