



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

---

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 70/10

### CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA - A PERIOD OF MUTUAL DISCOVERY

Statement by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, to the First National Assembly of the Organization of American States, Washington, June 30, 1970.

... Permit me to begin, Mr. President, by extending the condolences of the Government and people of Canada to the Government and people of Peru, and especially to the families of the victims, on the occasion of the terrible earthquake that caused so much devastation and took so many lives. As the emergency-relief phase comes to an end, I can assure the Peruvian authorities that my Government will look with sympathy upon any request for assistance in the reconstruction of the devastated areas.

This meeting of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) is a historic occasion. It is an honour for Canada to be represented here, just as it is a privilege for me to be Canada's representative. I have listened with great interest to the distinguished speakers who have so far taken part in your general debate, and I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. I have asked permission to speak because the Canadian Government has recently completed a general review of foreign policy from which has emerged Canada's future orientation toward Latin America and toward the Organization of American States. I should like to talk to you about this for a few minutes.

I believe that we have entered a period of mutual discovery by the people of Canada and the peoples of Latin America. We are already acquainted. We enjoy many contacts with one another, both bilateral and multilateral, both official and private, in the hemisphere and outside it; we can each cite statistics to prove that economically we are increasingly important to each other; and so on. Yet what is now beginning to take place transcends this. Certainly on the Canadian side the relatively few people who already know Latin America quite well are hopeful that henceforth their understanding of that part of the world will be conveyed to a great many other Canadians, who previously knew very little about Latin America, and that henceforth there will be a wider appreciation in Canada of our Latin neighbours. The more we learn about that part of the world, the more we feel in sympathy with the people who inhabit it. We sense that, with their rich historical and cultural