

DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY

In a joint declaration of solidarity, Mr. Horacio Lafer, Secretary of State for External Relations of Brazil, and Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, last week reaffirmed their strong belief in the need for improvement of the standard of living of people throughout the world for the achievement of greater economic, social and political stability.

In a statement issued during the visit to Ottawa of the Brazilian statesman, both Ministers referred to the collective efforts by their countries being made through the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in which Canada and Brazil are playing an active part. They emphasized the importance of measures which have been and are being undertaken to maintain peace in the world. In this connection, particular reference was made to the fact that Canadian and Brazilian forces for peace are serving side by side in the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East. Dr. Lafer expressed confidence that Canada would play a constructive role in the ten-nation disarmament talks which are now under way in Geneva.

Dr. Lafer explained in some detail the objectives and plans for Operation Pan-Americana, an important initiative of President Kubitschek of Brazil. As part of the practical implementation of Operation Pan-Americana, a special Committee of Twenty-one has been established and Dr. Lafer hoped that Canada

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MACHINE RECORDS ACCIDENTS

Any accident recording system prepared to deal with the possible mishaps of 2,217,000 drivers must be efficient. Such a system exists in the Vehicle Accident Statistics Division of the Ontario Department of Transport.

Fortunately, only 90,000 accidents each year get into the Department's files, but even this number constitutes a headache for the statisticians.

Handling these records requires a mechanized bureau staffed by trained personnel. Six tabulating machines, a verifier and a computer process the information supplied by the provincial police on the accident report forms.

Ontario was one of the first jurisdictions in North America to recognize the need for detailed information on accidents and accident causes. As early as 1932, mechanical equipment was used for statistical analysis.

The history of accident records in Ontario goes back many years. In 1929, the Hon. Frank E. Hodgins, Justice of the Supreme Court, headed a Royal Commission to study and report on compulsory insurance and safety responsibility laws. His report included a strong

might send a representative to observe the forthcoming meetings of the Committee. Mr. Green expressed great interest in this effort for the development of this Hemisphere and said that Canada would study ways and means of co-operating.

The Ministers expressed appreciation of the results which had already been achieved under the existing cultural agreement between Brazil and Canada. They were of the opinion, however, that even more could be accomplished and they agreed to examine methods of increasing the effectiveness of this cultural agreement.

Later, in a meeting with Mr. Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, attention was given to trade matters in the light of the participation of both countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It was recalled that there exists a long and happy tradition of co-operation between Canada and Brazil in the field of private enterprise. There was agreement among Ministers on the importance of encouraging the continued expansion of mutually beneficial economic relations between the two countries; in this context they recognized the desirability of progressively removing existing restrictions and other barriers to their trade. The Ministers discussed trading developments in Europe and elsewhere in the world which are of substantial interest to both Brazil and Canada. They found a close similarity of outlook on these matters.

recommendation for the compilation of accident statistics and driver records. As a result, an accident reporting law was written into the Highway Traffic Act and became effective in 1930.

From 1930 to 1957, these regulations were administered by the Motor Vehicles Branch of the Department of Highways. In 1957, the accident division was transferred to the new Department of Transport.

In 1959, the Accident Statistics Division handled some 80,000 accident reports with approximately 138,000 drivers involved.

Where accident statistics are properly maintained, they serve many useful purposes. They help guide highway engineers to eliminate hazards from existing streets and roads, and help design safety into those still on the drawing board.

They help automobile manufacturers add still more safety features to their designs and they spotlight the habitual violator so that his deficiencies can be corrected by training programmes.

Accident reports help municipalities and provinces find locations requiring traffic signals and markings, and they also disclose weaknesses of laws and ordinances.