

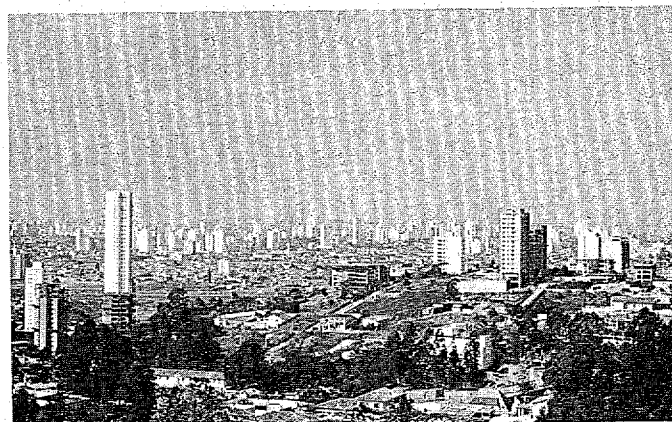
of slavery, historic Portuguese miscegenation (racial mixing and inter-marriage between blacks and whites), prevented the brutal exploitation that took place in many countries of Spanish America.

Modern Brazil, the largest entity in the Portuguese-speaking world, is culturally and economically very close to the Portuguese-speaking black Marxist republics of Africa: Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. Paradoxically Brazil's openly anti-Marxist government of technocrats and the military have expanded relations with the fellow republics of the Portuguese world, partly to enlarge the world role envisaged for their country. Modern Canada, the largest entity in the old British and French empires, maintains similar close economic and cultural ties with the other former colonies and the new, independent nations of the British Commonwealth and francophone Africa.

Yet there must be reasons why these two nations with so many parallel historic origins, pursue public policy-making so differently, Brazil in a deterministic way, Canada by consensus. A major consideration has to be the continuing role of the armed forces in Brazil as a major element in economic development, directing civilian governments behind the scenes, implementing the industrial strategy and — since 1964 — without the time-consuming obstructions of elected governments. The self-same roles which were shared abroad by the Brazilian military and the Canadian armed forces in war and peace, including joint peacekeeping duties in the now defunct United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East are not shared by them at home. The Brazilian army's long commitment to Amazonian development, compared to the similar miniscule role of the Northern Command of the Canadian Armed Forces in our Arctic, emphasizes the differences. But today, Brazilian executives trained abroad have assumed most of the earlier, directional roles of the military in economic development and settlement of the vast interior. The view that Brazil will become a future world power is shared by both civilian and military decision-makers.

There are messages for the Canadian future from this

comparison of two similar hemispheric countries. First, because Brazilians know who they are as a nation and Canadians are never sure, and because they possess and perpetuate a national ideology (which we shun), the long-term and pragmatic goals of national development are more easy to define and bring to completion in Brazil than in Canada. Second, Brazil's very strong central government controls the country's mega-projects in energy and natural resources through large federally-owned state corporations — not unlike Canadian crown corporations. But in Brazil these giant state enterprises are free of the destructive jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments which in Canada are delaying long-term development programs and scaring away foreign investors. By comparison, Brazil's mega-projects planned for completion in the 1990s in hydro-power, bauxite, iron



São Paulo — Biggest and fastest

ore and gold, are all on stream and well-financed by the world's international banks, including some Canadian ones.

Finally, Brazilians unlike Canadians think expansively of themselves and their nation, or as the late President Juscelino Kubitchek, the father of Brasilia, the country's new capital, once put it, "... to build in five years what takes fifty." □

## The changing OAS

*An interview with Val McComie, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States by Stephen Banker, a life-time student of Latin America and a CBC contributor from Washington. He introduces the scene before questioning Mr. McComie.*

Canada has never been a full member of the Organization of American States (OAS) for a number of reasons. The fact of being the second-most-developed country in the hemisphere raises expectations of Canada's donations. Too, there have been fears that Canada's foreign policy disagreements with the United States would be brought to a head at the OAS. The OAS historically has been expert at

quarrelling, but has had little impact in political or economic terms. And perhaps most important is simply that Canada's sentimental ties have never been with the New World.

But in the bubbling cauldron of contemporary geopolitics, some of those factors are changing. It is a different world we live in and the OAS, too, is changing its face. The new visage is increasingly black and its language, English. The Organization's most recent members are St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and the Bahamas. Guyana and Belize (formerly British Honduras) are in the wings, awaiting a charter revision that