

Mr. Smith's Visits to Brazil and Mexico

THE Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sidney E. Smith, accompanied by Mrs. Smith and a small group of officials, returned to Ottawa on the night of December 4 after a twelve-day visit to Brazil and a four-day visit to Mexico.

Brazil

When the Minister and his party landed at Rio de Janeiro on November 17, they were greeted at the airport by a representative of H. E. President Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira, by Foreign Minister Francisco Negroao de Lima, by Sr. de Sa Freire Alvim, Mayor of Rio, and by Mr. W. A. Irwin, the Canadian Ambassador to Brazil, and Mrs. Irwin. The Minister declared to the press that he had come at the gracious invitation of the Brazilian Government to see, to hear, and to learn, and that he was looking forward to his conversations with Brazilian leaders.

At a dinner given in his honour at the Foreign Office, housed in the stately palace of Itamaraty, Mr. Smith said in part:

Our two countries, it seems to me, have much in common. We are both peoples of the Americas. We share the historical experience of having left our ancestral homes in Europe to pioneer on the frontiers of the New World. We share the experience of having won political independence. We share a deeply rooted respect for the rights of the individual man; a profound belief in the necessity of the rule of law; and an unswerving dedication to the democratic freedoms.

Being both immense countries of continental proportions, our concept of man's relation to space is similar. In the economic field—in agriculture, in industry, in transport, communications—as in the sphere of political organization, many of the problems which confront us are of a similar kind and of the same order of magnitude. We are both developing at an extremely rapid rate. All of this makes me believe that Brazil and Canada have much to gain by intensive and systematic exchanges of views, of skills and of experiences.

The official part of the Minister's visit to Rio de Janeiro lasted three days, in the course of which he had opportunities for exchanges of views with the President of Brazil and the Foreign Minister, not only on matters affecting Canada and Brazil alone, but Canadian relations with Latin America as a whole. However, it was not the Minister's purpose to enter into specific negotiations; as the first Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs to visit Latin America, the Minister wanted to bring to Brazil, and Latin America, the expression of Canada's sincere goodwill and active friendship.

The Minister noted with pleasure the identity of views between the Brazilian and Canadian Governments on world issues. The Minister also had the occasion to express to President Kubitschek his admiration for the initiative taken by the President in launching what has come to be known as Operation