

First, a closer relationship - whether it be bilaterally with one Latin American country or multilaterally with all or a group of them - can flourish only if it is based firmly on the national interest of both parties to the relationship.

Second, a closer relationship must to a large degree be between governments but not exclusively so since the more it extends to the spontaneous and enterprising interest of private institutions and groups the more it will have real depth and substance.

Third, each party to the relationship should seek in the other those special elements it can most characteristically provide, thus providing for mutually beneficial exchanges on the basis of intelligent selection.

The Government, on considering recommendations for the betterment of our relations with Latin America, must keep in mind the priority that should be given to this aspect of our foreign policy in the light of the financial resources available to it in a period of budgetary stringency. If, with respect to relations with Latin America or to any other area of official activity, the Government decides to pursue policies or to activate projects which require financial or manpower resources for their successful execution, these resources must be provided. When we examine our actual and potential relations with Latin America we find that, especially in the short term, this could be done more easily in some ways than in others. I can assure you, however, that the Government will consider every recommendation carefully and on its merits.

I look forward with pleasure to the discussions at this seminar and, thereafter to further consultations on this and other aspects of our foreign policy. Very shortly, for example, I expect to participate in a seminar similar to this one on United Nations questions. If at the conclusion of the present seminar, there should be a general desire to continue the dialogue on Latin America I am confident that, with the assistance of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, this could be arranged.

I cannot state too strongly how greatly Ministers value the views and suggestions which we receive not only from our professional advisers but also from interested members of the public. Advice of this latter kind reaches us in a variety of ways - for example at meetings such as this, in public interviews and in letters. More particularly, I expect that the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs and Defence will in due course hear witnesses on our relations with Latin America as it now is doing on our NATO policy. I hope that this is just the beginning of a process which, in the months and years ahead, will provide an increasingly articulate and constructive environment for the conduct of our relations with Latin America.