

of a letter of January 11, 1950, addressed to Mr. Heeney by Mr. Wrong which says: "I remarked to Mr. Kennan — and he did not disagree — that Pan American conferences seemed to me to be more wasting of time and effort than any of the too numerous international gatherings at which we were now represented."

3. Latin Americans, who do not lack intuition, are becoming aware of our above-described attitude. As an illustration of this statement, I might refer you to the comments of the Brazilian press when we abstained from attending the First Congress of the Latin Union (Mr. Morin's despatch of November 9, 1951).

4. From time to time we make known our desire to develop our trade with Latin American countries. In this connection, we should bear in mind that they are countries where sentiment plays a part, in addition to reason. Possibly it should not be so, but it is. Unless we show active marks of consideration and friendship, I doubt that we shall reap from them the commercial advantages which we might otherwise expect.

5. I may be unduly influenced by the fact that I operate in a Latin American post. I want nevertheless to say that, in my opinion, we have not yet acquired the habit of giving to Latin America the relative importance which it has. For instance, the Meeting of Heads of Divisions reports, and especially our Departmental reports to Cabinet, contain far more on India and Pakistan than they do on all the Latin American republics taken together. Politically, of course, Latin America does not constitute at present a vital zone, such as the Far East, where the Communist menace is supreme. Economically, however, taking into account the long-term possibilities offered to us by the similarly under-developed Latin American area, I submit that we should gradually increase our concern about it. Without ceasing to look East and West, we should also look farther South than the United States.¹⁶

6. The argument for non-participation based on lack of knowledge of the O.A.S. by the Canadian public appears to me one which should prompt us to send an observer. Ignorance is a poor argument on the part of one who is offered the means to learn. Regular Inter-American Conferences take place only every five years, which means that very little personnel and money would be involved in sending a small delegation of observers. Furthermore, I personally do not see how the sending of observers to the coming Conference would make it difficult for us to refuse closer association with the O.A.S. if we do not want to pursue the experience any further. We could surely make it plain that our sending of observers to Caracas is without any compromise as regards subsequent conferences.¹⁷

LÉON MAYRAND

¹⁶Note marginale :/Marginal note:
Howe mission would agree.

¹⁷Note marginale :/Marginal note:
doubt this. W.G. S[tark]