

In an article in International Perspectives (May-June 1972), Harbron argued that the old objection that membership in OAS might result in tensions with the United States had lost a good deal of its validity, since Canada-U.S. relations had entered rough waters for other reasons. He noted that under the OAS charter Canada would be able to abstain from decisions regarding other member states.

In June 1971 a panel meeting of Canadians and non-Canadians was held in Quebec to discuss Canadian external relations and domestic developments for the 1970's. In a book (Thomas A. Hockin and others: The Canadian Condominium: Domestic Issues and External Policy, Toronto: McLelland and Stewart Ltd, 1972) based on material prepared for the meeting the opinion was expressed that in Canada, since 1965, there had been more interest in Latin America but less interest in OAS.

Professor Harvey Levenstein, McMaster University, in one of his frequent articles in the Toronto Star, January 14, 1974, likened Canadian diplomats in Latin America to the "ugly Americans" of the 1950's, and alleged that Canadian policy towards the area was "still being shaped by the people whose minds were cast in those years". Continuing the line of argument, he wrote:

"For years our foreign policy makers regarded Latin America as the private fief of the United States. We refused to join the Pan American Union, and its successor, the Organization of American States (OAS) not, as the official explanation usually claimed, because it would conflict with our Commonwealth obligations but because we implicitly accepted the validity of the Monroe Doctrine, as interpreted by the United