

our own. Furthermore, I am inclined to think that they would not have been able to maintain their national unity and to retain control over such a large part of the American continent unless they had been able to bring to bear on the various issues facing them a good deal of political wisdom and practical sense. Like Canadians, I suspect that they have a flair for compromise and that instinctively they tend to favour moderate solutions. For this reason, they are inclined to associate with us in devising a counterweight to balance the United States and Spanish-speaking countries in hemispheric affairs. If we are willing to pay attention to them, to be sympathetic and helpful, I suspect that Brazil will be happy to continue to work closely with us in the field of foreign policy generally. During my stay in Brazil, they have been most insistent particularly that we should give them our most active support and join, for instance, the Organization of American States.

This particular problem of membership in the O.A.S. was the central theme of discussions in the course of a two-day meeting of a number of Heads of our Missions in Latin America which was held while I was in Rio. Officials of the Departments of Trade and Commerce and External Affairs had also come to Rio to take part in the meeting from which a number of interesting conclusions seem to emerge.

The general view was that Latin America as a whole is increasing in importance and that the various Latin American countries are very desirous of establishing closer relations with us. The participants were convinced that a strong case could now be made for Canadian participation in the O.A.S. If the conclusion is reached that because of other commitments and priorities as regards North American defence, the United Nations, NATO and the Commonwealth, resources are not likely to be available to enable us to join the O.A.S., there was a very strong feeling that we should find means of strengthening our relations with the Latin American countries generally. It was thought that this would be fully warranted as a result of our stake in preventing Communist infiltration in this part of the world and also in contributing to its material progress.

The need to study our relations with Latin America and to take some practical steps was becoming more urgent due to the fact that we may be in danger of losing our relative share in the trade with this area. Some mention was made of a possible contribution to a regional development fund or, alternatively, of giving assistance to our traders as regards credit facilities they could extend to their customers in the area.

As to information and cultural matters, our experts from the area are of the opinion that substantial results could be achieved at a cost of a slight investment in personnel and resources, particularly as regards film distribution. All were convinced that the meeting had served a very useful purpose and that similar discussions, either in Ottawa or in some other Latin American centre, could be arranged with advantage at suitable intervals.

Leaving Brazil on Saturday, November 29, I then proceeded to Mexico to attend the presidential inauguration. Formal ceremonies of one kind or another took up most of my time, but I am convinced that it would have been a mistake to leave Latin America after a visit to Brazil only. There is a good deal of rivalry between the countries in the area and a visit to Spanish-speaking Mexico after a short stay in Portuguese-speaking Brazil introduced a necessary element of balance in my tour. I am not sure also that my decision to attend the presidential inauguration in Mexico did not have something to do with the size and composition of the most impressive United States delegation which attended the ceremonies. As you may know, Mr. Dulles was accompanied by General Twining, Mr. Milton Eisenhower, the President of General Electric and a number of very senior civil servants.

To put it in a nutshell, I come back from my short visit to Latin America with the definite impression that the whole area is fast increasing in importance and that to the