

there and saw the creation of a vacuum as Latin American countries broke their traditional ties with the United States. Rather than have the Soviet Union take advantage of this situation, the Globe felt Canada should become involved in this critical period of transition and counteract Soviet involvement by increasing its own trade and political relations in order to keep "Western influence alive in Latin America."⁸

The Victoria Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs held an extraordinary meeting on March 12th, 1960, to discuss "Canada and the OAS". The participants included professors from the Canadian Services College, Royal Roads and Victoria College, as well as a number of retired professional and businessmen with Latin American experience. After much discussion the members resolved against membership in the OAS at that time and suggested that Canada only join if there was substantial support for such a move in Latin America.⁹

Editorial comment in March, 1960, inspired in part by the visit of Brazil's Foreign Minister, reflected the lack of consensus existing in Canada over membership in the OAS. The Globe began its continued opposition to Canada's joining.¹⁰ While the Vancouver Sun,¹¹ the Kingston Whig-Standard,¹² and the Ottawa Citizen¹³ had articles which weighed the pros and cons, but made no definite commitment.

The Prime Minister's visit to Mexico called for further press reaction during April. The Vancouver Province¹⁴ and the Ottawa Citizen saw Canada becoming more involved in Latin America; the Citizen's Frank Swanson asked if Canada could remain aloof from involvement in Latin America much longer. He said the answer seemed to be no "which may be a sign of our own