

CHAPITRE V/CHAPTER V
AMÉRIQUE LATINE
LATIN AMERICA

PREMIÈRE PARTIE/PART I

ORGANISATION DES ÉTATS D'AMÉRIQUE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

524.

PCO

Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet

Extract from Cabinet Conclusions

SECRET

[Ottawa], August 20, 1957

Present:

The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Diefenbaker) in the Chair,
The Minister of Public Works
and Acting Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Green),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming),
The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Brooks),
The Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer),
The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Pearkes),
The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill),
The Secretary of State (Mrs. Fairclough),
The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. MacLean),
The Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr),
The Postmaster General (Mr. William Hamilton),
The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Browne),
The Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Comtois).
The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Bryce),
Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Martin).

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES;
POSSIBLE CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP

6. *The Prime Minister* said that the question of Canada joining the Organization of American States, or the Pan-American Union as it was better known, had been raised on a number of occasions in the past, but up to the present, it had been decided not to accept membership. Meetings were held in Washington from time to time at which Canada had observer status. An economic conference of the organization would be held soon, and a further request had been made as to whether the Canadian government wished to continue to be represented by an observer or whether it wished formally to join the group. Full membership might lead to differences with the United States on a number of matters. It also involved accrediting a full-time ambassador to the organization. The Department of External Affairs would find this difficult to do. On the other hand membership might have some trade benefits.