



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 64/34

INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

A Speech by Senator John J. Connolly to the Sixth Inter-American Conference of Business Executives in Lima, Peru, on November 9, 1964.

The Government of Canada is honoured in the invitation extended to it by the Inter-American Conference of Business Executives to send a representative to this meeting. Originally it was suggested that the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable L.B. Pearson, should come. The Canadian Parliament is in session and, with regret, Mr. Pearson had to decline. I bring his warm personal greetings. I am here on behalf of all Canadians to pay tribute to their regard for the peoples of Latin American.

May I also say how impressed I was by the speech we have just heard from Dr. Bustamente y Rivero? Not only have we had further evidence that he is an eminent jurist and philosopher. His broad vision is that of a citizen of the world.

I need not say how delighted I am to be in Lima. Peru and Canada are far away from each other in one sense. Canada is the most northern nation in the Americas. On the west coast of South America, with one exception, Peru is the most southerly. Thanks to modern communications (and including Canadian Pacific Airlines), we are much closer in our generation than our fathers would have dreamed possible.

In Canada, we think of ourselves as a new country. That is generally true of the countries of the Americas. So it is a startling fact for Canadians to realize that Peruvians can produce evidence of civilization here, back to pre-Christian times. So, too, can Mexico and Guatemala and other countries. It is all part of a fascinating background. My countrymen should know more of the history of your lands.

At this stage of human history, there is no area in the world more generously endowed than the Americas. Its climatic variations run the full gamut between the North and South Poles. Culturally, it is essentially Western. Every European stock is represented. And the original stocks are here as well. The frontiers have been beaten back. Great resources have been discovered and developed. Families and homes have been established. But much remains to be done. We know the potential is here - the will, the means - and the people must be mobilized to realize it.