

Radio Office, since it was formed in 1937; the Inter-American Statistical Institute since 1943, shortly after it was created; and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, since 1961. It has also sent observers to conferences of other specialized organizations and agencies concerned with such varied matters as public health, Indian affairs, and the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Canada has sent delegates or observers to an increasing number of conferences called by the OAS in various fields of transportation and communications. For example, a few weeks ago, Canadian officials went to the second meeting of experts on civil aviation, which met in Santiago.

Consideration is given from time to time to the possible participation as members or otherwise in some of the technical functions and activities of bodies related to the OAS of which Canada is not already a member. The decisions depend both on the Canadian interest involved and the extent to which we can make a useful and effective contribution.

A Canadian observer group attended a special meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (one of the important organs of the OAS) held in Uruguay in 1961, at which the Alliance for Progress was launched as a co-operative programme of self-help, local reforms, development plans and outside financial and technical assistance. Since then, Canada has been represented by observers at the annual meeting of the Inter-American ECOSOC.

Economic Assistance

Last November, I announced that the expanded programme of Canadian economic assistance to under-developed countries would include additional lending resources which, in the case of Latin America, would be provided in close co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank. Discussions have been continuing with this institution on the provision of development loans to Latin America, and it is expected that some mutually satisfactory arrangement will be worked out.

This audience will appreciate, of course, that Canada contributes in a substantial way to the various programmes of technical assistance and economic aid of the United Nations. This international aid flows in part to Latin America as one of the major under-developed areas of the world. We have not, up to now, had a separate government-to-government assistance programme for the Latin American countries. The programme of so-called "soft" loans for development purposes which I have referred to will be the first step in this direction. Over a period of time - subject, of course, to our capacity on an overall basis to give assistance abroad - more Canadian aid in various forms can be expected to flow to Latin America. I would also hope that more could be done in the future in the field of cultural relations by promoting the exchange of visits and by providing scholarships.