

Chapter II

OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

The Quality of Life

The development of relations with Latin America can significantly enhance the quality of life both in Canada and in Latin America if due account is taken of the socio-cultural climate. Imbued with the values of Western civilization and of their own indigenous cultures, the Latin Americans recognize in Canada a country which is similarly endowed and which, culturally, is oriented more toward the future than toward the past. They also see that Canada, though industrialized, is a country of middle size, still developing economically and still evolving socially and politically. They sense that Canadians, though their standard of living is relatively high, value life essentially for its variety and particularity, and they believe that Canadians can be counted on to think for themselves and to seek commonsense, pragmatic solutions to public problems.

In matters touching on the quality of life, the Latin Americans believe that in some fields such as cybernetics or technology generally Canada can help them to find effective ways of moving satisfactorily into their own future. In other fields—painting, architecture, films, sociology, for example—the Latin Americans can do this for Canada. At the same time, in such fields as archaeology and ethnology Canadians and Latin Americans can help each other to rediscover and appreciate their own past.

Programmes already inaugurated in the field of science and technology include the recently concluded scientific agreement with Brazil under which each year a dozen or so scientists from each country do research in the other, and a programme under which the National Research Council regularly makes data available to selected Latin American institutions.

More could be done, for Canadians have somewhat easier access to the more advanced technologies than do the Latin Americans. At the same time, both increasingly have the problem of determining which of the new