

Diefenbaker asked in the House of Commons if this was the "climax" of the ministerial mission. The closing of the missions was also mentioned by Professor Louis Sabourin, University of Ottawa, in testimony before the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and Defence on December 11, 1969. He said that the closing "ne seront pas tragiques", but that it did not make sense to close missions and give money to CIDA which needed diplomatic missions to develop programmes of cooperation on an effective basis. On April 7, 1970, Robert Thompson, M.P., said in the committee that he regretted the closing of the embassies so soon after the government had demonstrated interest in the area by sending a ministerial mission. On April 14, 1970, Gordon Fairweather, M.P., also expressed regret at the closing of the three embassies.

C) Latin American policy review

In connection with a review of policy relating to Latin America which it was conducting, the Department of External Affairs requested the Canadian Institute of International Affairs to arrange a seminar, which was held from March 7 to 9, 1969. Among the views expressed at the seminar were the following:

a) Professor James C. McKegney, University of Waterloo, advocated giving Latin America a preference over Africa and Asia in our aid programmes;

b) John Harbron, Toronto Telegram, advocated greater attention by the Canadian mass media to Latin America;

c) L'Abbé Gérard Dion, Laval University, advocated gover-