

8. One of the questions occasionally raised was the Colonial issue as affecting the British, French and Dutch colonies and territories in this Hemisphere. While the cooler heads were inclined to deprecate pressing the question, undoubtedly there were others, who not appreciating the efforts made by the Mother Countries for the benefit, in most cases, of the peoples resident in these colonies and territories, were disposed to emulate Bolivar and to try to assist the population to throw off the yoke of the European oppressors! This is a question which may be pressed at any time and, in respect of it, I am afraid our attitude would be liable to misrepresentation, for the logical Latin mind finds it difficult to understand our position in the Commonwealth, and that the units have a common Sovereign and yet are not subordinate one to the other.

9. While I am very anxious that Canada should cultivate the closest possible relations with Latin America, I am not convinced that the most effective measure to be taken to that end is by becoming a member of the Organization of American States at the present time. I realize that there are many weighty arguments on the other side, but, on balance, this paragraph expresses my conclusion in the light of my experience. Again, however, I feel that, if we are not prepared to join the Union, we should not be represented by official observers at a general Conference; to send observers and then decide not to join would, I am sure, have a deteriorative effect on our relations with many, if not all, of the component States.

E.H. COLEMAN

1051.

DEA/2226-40

L'ambassadeur au Chili
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Ambassador in Chile
to Secretary of State for External Affairs

DESPATCH 21

Santiago, January 21, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

OBSERVER STATUS FOR CANADA AT 10TH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO BE HELD
IN VENEZUELA LATE IN 1953

Reference: Your despatch No. X-292 of October 28, 1952.¹⁵

My absence on annual leave has prevented me from sending you my views at an earlier date. I should like at least to outline my reasoning on this subject.

2. I think we have to agree that many Canadians have a superiority complex towards Latin Americans. The State Department memorandum of September 3, 1952, rather crudely attributes this attitude to "a somewhat personalized psychological disinclination to be associated with Latin Americans, many of whom they do not respect and frequently distrust." We have on our files a copy

¹⁵Voir le document 1045./See Document 1045.