

The Committee of Jurists that had been established at the Rio Conference to draw up codes of public and private international law was also to make its report.

But one of several projects that had been prepared by this committee was a draft convention on the rights and duties of States. This draft proposed the adoption of the rule that "no State may interfere in the internal affairs of another". In the political circumstances of the time no question could have been more controversial; for Latin American criticism of the United States was based largely on her policy of intervention, particularly in Central America; and the debate that ensued was marked by great bitterness.

In the result, however, the question was referred to the next conference; and, at Montevideo in 1933, the United States, which had in the meantime adopted its Good Neighbour Policy, accepted the non-intervention principle.

The other draft conventions, namely those on the status of aliens, treaties, diplomatic officers, consular agents, maritime neutrality, asylum, the rights and duties of States in the event of civil strife, and private international law, were adopted without difficulty.

The Conference also adopted three other conventions and a great number of resolutions and motions. These conventions dealt with copyright, commercial aviation, and the status of the Pan American Union. Since its creation in 1889, the Pan American Union had been governed by resolutions adopted at the various conferences. It was now proposed to establish it on a firm treaty basis. This has not yet been done; for, while the Conference adopted the convention, it does not come into force until it has been ratified by all the republics, something that has not yet happened.

It is of some interest to Canadians to note that the convention proposed changing the name of the Union of American Republics to the Union of American States.

The proposed Convention on the Pan American Union provided Argentina with an opportunity to criticize the tariff policies of the United States. The head of the Argentine delegation insisted that the preamble of the convention should include a declaration against excessive barriers to inter-American trade and warned that unless his country's wishes were respected in this matter it would not sign the convention. Largely because of United States opposition the Argentine suggestion was rejected; but Argentina nevertheless signed the convention although she has not yet ratified it.

MONTEVIDEO CONFERENCE (1933)

In the five years between the Havana Conference and the Montevideo Conference, which met in 1933, important changes had taken place in the Latin American policy of the United States. Early in the year in which the Montevideo Conference met, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the Good Neighbour Policy which, in an address before the Governing Board of the Pan American Union on April 12, he applied specifically to the Latin American republics. In 1930, moreover, the State Department had officially announced its abandonment of the Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine enunciated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904.

This fundamental change in United States foreign policy was greeted with great enthusiasm in Latin America. In the new atmosphere of