

prove useful should it be decided to make known Canadian views and concerns in the regional forum, as well as in the different capitals.

I agree that our Mission in Santiago should be asked to keep us more fully informed of ECLA activities, particularly commercial policy developments, and that we should draw on our Missions in Latin America for the observers we would wish to send to the main ECLA meetings and subsidiary meetings of special interest to Canada. Presently I do not foresee occasions when it would be appropriate to send senior officials or Members of Parliament from Ottawa for this purpose.

Since the proposal is only to intensify our participation in ECLA activities on an observer basis, I doubt whether any serious questions arise as regards Canadian representation in ECE, ECAFE, or the new Economic Commission for Africa.

If it is agreed to proceed in the manner suggested, I assume that there will be consultations between the departments concerned about the representatives chosen to attend the meetings in which we decide to participate. As you note in your letter, there are a number of officers presently in Latin America who have had considerable experience in economic and trade questions. There is something to be said for a certain amount of continuity in our representation at ECLA meetings, but on the other hand there would be advantages in using officers who are on the spot in the different capitals, both from the point of view of economy and that of widening their experience. It is tempting to think of asking Mr. Bower or Mr. Couillard to observe at some of the ECLA meetings. I should be inclined to think, however, that except perhaps for the most important meetings, representation by one of our Ambassadors might give rise to undesirable speculation about our willingness to become more closely involved in Latin American affairs. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Department of Finance, the Bank of Canada, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries and the Privy Council Office.

Yours faithfully,

J.H. WARREN

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*Note du secrétaire adjoint du Cabinet
pour le secrétaire du Cabinet*

*Memorandum from Assistant Secretary to Cabinet
to Secretary to Cabinet*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], June 11, 1959

ECLA

The initial interest in this matter was generated when Mr. Smith met with Heads of Canadian Missions in Latin America in Rio de Janeiro, November 1958. The feeling at that time was that Canada might, for political reasons, increase its activity in this UN organization.

Initially, External Affairs suggested that we might send a senior officer, versed in economic matters, to attend as an observer those meetings of particular interest to Canada. I understand that this view has been modified and it is now suggested that Canada should continue to attend as an observer, but be represented at a junior level. It has been stressed on several occasions that we do not want to become too deeply involved in Latin American affairs, particularly because of the pressures that would almost certainly develop for us to join the various Latin American organizations and participate in their aid and technical assistance programmes. As Warren has pointed out, increased participation on a more formal basis would not necessarily lead to an increase in Canadian exports to this area.