



# Bulletin

Vol. 24, No 28

July 9, 1969

## CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA

*In an address to the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Association for Latin American Studies at York University, Toronto, on June 12, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, reviewed the principal aspects of Canada's relations with Latin America.*

*Excerpts from Mr. Goyer's speech follow:*

In the context of the review of Canada's external policy now under way, especially that part of the review concerned with Canada's relations with Latin America, I find it wholly appropriate that an organization such as the Canadian Association for Latin American Studies should be created, since these special circumstances provide it with a natural objective - to increase mutual knowledge between Canada and Latin America and to establish machinery towards that end....

Obviously, since the review of Canada's policy toward Latin America has not yet been completed, there can be no question of anticipating the Government's intentions in this field, or of speculating on our future relations with that part of the world....

### CANADA'S GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION

From the point of view of our geopolitical situation, one would assume, at first glance, that Canada would have long since drawn closer to the countries of Latin America. In fact, we share the American continent with these countries; in principle, Canada and the Latin American countries defend the same political ideals....Nevertheless, up to the present time, geopolitical forces have had the reverse effect.

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Paradoxically, the main reason for this state of affairs is the special geographic position of the United States. The latter country is obviously the dominant geopolitical force in this Hemisphere and its influence is felt both to the north and to the south. Yet its relations with these two regions have developed separately and in different directions. Similarly, both of these regions have a special relation with the United States, but this relation binds the region concerned to the United States rather than to the region at the other extremity of the Hemisphere. For this reason, one can say that the United States has been a geographical entity - one might almost say a geopolitical entity - separating Canada from Latin America....

There is another major reason why geopolitical forces have not yet brought Canada and Latin America much closer together: in the past, the political interests of Canada and those of Latin American countries did not follow the same lines. Since their liberation a century and a half ago, the countries of Latin America have maintained cultural links with Spain and Portugal, and European immigration has played an important role in their development. Nevertheless, these countries have been