

Supply—External Affairs

During our stay there, the main topic of conversation revolved around the activities of ex-president Janio Quadros. He seemed to enjoy extraordinary personal popularity. We could feel, however, that sound thinking people were concerned about his leftist leanings, and it is certain that when he decided to award his country's highest decoration to Mr. Guevara, the Cuban minister of economic affairs, his action was resented by a great many people, and the result was to hasten his resignation.

(Text):

Mr. Chairman, I have only a few more sentences to finish my speech.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the committee give unanimous consent to allowing the associate minister to finish?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

(Translation):

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, what amazed me during the talks I had with Brazilian statesmen was their desire to co-operate with the western powers.

Communism has certainly no hold on Brazil and we have there allies who want to co-operate with us and to prevent, if possible, the birth of subversive movements in that country where huge illiterate populations are living, which, if they were to be subjected to communist influence, could easily cause a social and economic revolution.

(Text):

On our way back to Canada we stopped in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and we had the great privilege of meeting the governor of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Senor Luis Munoz Marin, who is considered, and rightly so, in many circles as one of the great democratic leaders of our times. The governor gave us a wonderful reception and at a dinner which he gave in honour of the Canadian delegation we had the privilege of meeting the members of his cabinet and many other Puerto Rican leaders in the fields of finance and industry.

When Luis Munoz Marin was elected governor of Puerto Rico in 1949 there was very little activity in the island. The degree of illiteracy was very high. Poverty and its allies, that is misery and even crime, were everywhere. The economy was in a precarious condition. Through sound economic management, imaginative and progressive theories, Luis Munoz Marin completely changed the course of events. By offering special advantages to industries interested in the wonderful climate of the island, its vast labour pool and many other advantages, Luis Munoz Marin

has in the short space of 12 years attracted over 700 new industries to the island of Puerto Rico. These new industries represent an investment of well over half a billion dollars. These new industries have meant work and employment for the people of Puerto Rico and also an ever-increasing level of well-being.

Schools have been built everywhere and as a result illiteracy has almost completely disappeared from the island. A slum clearance program has been carried out and is being continued, and all over the island can be seen low-cost housing developments where today live in comfort people who for generations had resided in the most abject slums. Magnificent hotels have been built and millions of tourists consider Puerto Rico as the ideal vacation land.

All this has been accomplished through peaceful methods without revolutions and crippling strikes. The government of Puerto Rico observes to the letter the rules of democratic government in which we believe and always strives to co-operate with those who wish to help them instead of resisting progress. What is happening in Puerto Rico through the application of democratic methods which we understand and in which we believe can also happen elsewhere in Latin America, and it is to be hoped that the example of Puerto Rico will serve as a model to other countries in Central and South America.

At this point it may be useful to establish a parallel between what has happened in Puerto Rico and what has happened and is still happening in Cuba. Both islands have the same climate, the same rich soil, the same products, and are populated by people of the same origin. In the one island, Puerto Rico, thanks to the better ways of democracy we see prosperity, expansion, a happy people, a booming industry, millions of tourists and, to sum up, a very bright future. In the other, Cuba, because of revolution, corruption in government and the desire by its present leaders to move to the left we see a chaotic economy, the rule of force and strength, despair and fear, empty hotels, a ruined tourist industry and the distrust of almost everyone in the immediate future of the island.

May I summarize by saying that after visiting Latin America I realize more than ever that, although here in North America we may have shortcomings and we accept the fact that a great deal remains to be done if we wish to move forward toward our great destiny, we nevertheless have managed to achieve success through the application of our methods of government and our search