

1959 meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on March 5,⁵¹⁰ when he discussed the main arguments for and against Canada joining the Organization. A copy of the minutes of Mr. Smith's evidence [at] that meeting will be found on file in Havana.

Because of Cuba's proximity to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, you will naturally wish to pay particular attention to the relations of Cuba with these two countries and the other countries of the Caribbean area as well. This region has been in a state of turmoil since Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba, on January 1 of this year. He has publicly threatened the dictatorial régimes of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua. Three countries, Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, have been invaded by well-equipped but ill-trained "democratic crusaders," mostly Cuban soldiers of fortune. In the first two cases, in the face of speedy and determined action by the OAS, and meeting with little local support, the invaders surrendered after a few skirmishes. The third invasion, which took place in the Dominican Republic in mid-June, was put down by Government forces within a few days, but it led to the calling of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of American Foreign Ministers in Santiago, Chile, from August 12 to August 18, 1959. The most substantial resolution in the final act of that meeting from our point of view was No. IV, which re-activates the Inter-American Peace Committee. If any future international problems arise constituting a danger to peace in the Caribbean region, we will be pleased to receive your comments on the effectiveness of the above Committee as an instrument for dealing with such situations.

Because of the predominance of the United States in the affairs of this hemisphere, U.S.-Cuban relations should be the object of much of your attention. From its inception the Castro Government has displayed extreme sensitivity to criticism from the United States press and members of the government, while Castro has manifested an increasing tendency to blame the U.S. for Cuba's economic and political problems and to insist on a neutralist position in world affairs.

Cuba is an original or Charter member of the United Nations and participates regularly in the activities of the Organization. It may be regarded as one of the five or six more active members from Latin America. It has served on such organs of the United Nations as the Security Council in 1956-57, ECOSOC in 1946-47 and 1952-53-54, the Panel for Inquiry and Conciliation in 1955, the *Ad hoc* Committee on SUNFED in 1955 and the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary questions in all the Specialized Agencies (except IMCO), of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of the FAO Council, of the International Law Commission, of the Statistical Commission, of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Cuban policies towards United Nations affairs have been usually in line with those of the majority of the Latin American group, which are characterized, broadly speaking, by support of United States policies on major East-West issues, by relatively moderate anti-colonialism and by a desire, as under-developed countries, to have United Nations assistance expanded beyond the capability or willingness of the developed countries. Not so extreme as some other Latin American countries, Cuba has been, on the other hand, not as responsible or reliable as Brazil, for instance. While Cuba's contribution to the work of the United Nations has not been without its constructive side, Cuban delegates have frequently indulged in hortatory, "do good" resolutions which have reflected the enthusiasm of the delegates, but have not been necessarily

⁵¹⁰ Voir Canada, Chambre des communes, Comité permanent des Affaires extérieures, *Procès-verbaux et témoignages*, 1959, pp. 7 à 21.

See Canada, House of Commons, Standing Committee on External Affairs, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, 1959, pp. 7-20.