

the United States, coupled with the desire to avoid involvement in intra-Latin American or United States-Latin American conflicts.

Both Legault and Holmes foresaw the possibility of changes occurring in the character of OAS. The former wrote:

"...The conditions of a Canadian adhesion to the O.A.S. seem to rest upon the transformation of this body into an organization less attuned to military and political considerations and more dedicated to economic, scientific and cultural cooperation".

He went so far as to suggest that by entering OAS, Canada might exert a positive influence on effecting "a new orientation of this institution, less attuned to American interests and closer to Latin American desires". But he did not specifically advocate Canada's joining OAS.

Holmes (in Canada: a Middle-aged Power) said that the question of whether OAS should be strengthened or maintained was largely a matter for Latin Americans to decide. Decisions taken by the Latin American countries at Vina delMar might result in giving the organization a new raison d'être - but not one to encourage Canadian entry. Continuing he wrote:

"...Canadians would not want to be part of a North American bloc in the OAS. The suggested role for Canada of mediator between the United States and the Latin Americans should be regarded as an occasional rather than a professional occupation... We should discourage compulsive organizers attracted to grand designs for a new Western Hemisphere...All parts of it have their own deep involvements in other continents. As a pole-to-pole area it is strategically and economically incomprehensible".