



Bulletin

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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

forced to centre their preoccupations on the solution of their internal problems and the affairs of the Hemisphere. As I shall mention later, the Canadian people's involvement in international affairs is a fairly recent phenomenon. Despite this, Canada has always been relatively open to the outside world, either for historical or internal reasons, or because of the need to counter-balance the influence of the United States.

As a result of technological changes since the Second World War, the geopolitical gap between Canada and Latin America has narrowed. Aviation and telecommunications have greatly facilitated contacts between the various parts of the Western Hemisphere, and between this Hemisphere and the rest of the world. Canadians are showing a greater interest in the affairs of this Hemisphere than they did in the past; at the same time, the people of Latin America are becoming more interested in world affairs. This interest on the part of the people is reflected at the government level. I was one of the members of the ministerial mission which visited nine Latin American countries at the end of last year; during these visits, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and myself were struck by the willingness of the ministers of foreign affairs of these countries to talk with us about several aspects of the situation in the Hemisphere and by their great eagerness to discuss in depth current international problems....

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Regarding economic development, the position of the Latin American countries is somewhat paradoxical. In the first place, some of these countries are far more advanced economically than the others. This gap has long existed for some of them. At the same time, in many of these countries, there are on the one hand, striking economic development, fully comparable to that of the most advanced countries, and, on the other hand, very serious economic and social problems which affect a wide segment of the population. It is to these problems that the governments of these countries are increasingly turning their attention, and it is, of course, for them to make the necessary decisions, which in certain cases are of immediate urgency.

Certain elements of the Canadian private sector are fairly active in Latin America, where there has long been private capital investments of sizable importance, especially in mines and public services. Canadian banks operate there and groups of Canadian engineers and consulting engineers are increasingly active in these countries.

More recently, the Canadian Government took a modest step towards real co-operation with the governments of the Latin American countries in the field of economic development. Since 1964, Canada has each year allocated \$10 million to the Inter-American Development Bank. This amount forms part of the long-term loans which the Bank grants to

member countries in order to help them carry out certain development projects. The Canadian Government has the right to approve the projects financed with Canadian funds. This effort is worth-while but hardly sufficient if one considers that the amount which Canada contributes each year to help the economic development of Latin America represents only about 3 per cent of the money earmarked by Parliament for external aid. We fully understand the situation. In the field of economic development, we wish to co-operate with the countries of Latin America as much as possible in the future and we are now studying the most practical ways of doing it.

EXPORT CREDITS

In another area, one related to trade (that is, the field of export credits), the Canadian Government has been very active in Latin America in comparison to what it has done in other parts of the world. Of a total of approximately \$400 million granted for credits to foreign countries in recent years, about \$150 million has been directed toward Latin American countries.

TRADE

I have already said that trade is unquestionably one of the oldest and one of the most effective ties between Canada and Latin America. The total value of our commercial exchanges exceeded \$965 million in 1968, more than 11 times the figure for 1941. Nevertheless, placed within the context of our world trade, this value represents only 3.8 per cent of our total trade for the year 1968 and, incidentally, indicates a balance in our favor. We sell more to most of these countries individually than they sell collectively on our market. These statistics clearly illustrate the real difficulties which these countries experience in increasing to a satisfactory level their exports to Canada. We are ready to provide our advice, as far as possible, to help them increase their output. In return, one must realize that the exportation of traditional Canadian products to Latin America will from now on have to face the free trade area customs arrangements which are presently being established in these countries. Canada, while attempting to retain a fair share of the market for the exporters of these products, must also seek to ensure that exports of other kinds, such as the equipment needed for economic development, are given a place in our trade with Latin America.

It is evident that there is a place for closer relations with Latin America in the economic field. Canada can play an important role in the economic development of Latin American countries, not only through the Canadian International Development Agency and the Export Credit Insurance Corporation but also through the investment of capital and the various efforts of private groups. I see two main ways in which this role can be fulfilled: in the first place, through the financing which the Canadian Government could usefully provide in the future; and,

SALUTE TO ALEXANDER

The recent death of Earl Alexander of Tunis, a former Governor General of Canada, elicited the following tributes from Governor-General Michener and Prime Minister Trudeau, who spoke in the House of Commons:

The Governor General —

It is 17 years since Lord Alexander resigned as Governor General of Canada to become Minister of Defence in Britain. Nevertheless, he was so well and favorably remembered in Canada that the news of his death today has moved us all profoundly.

Apart from his personal and human qualities which made him a host of friends, there were two good reasons for the high esteem and affection which Canadians held for him.

He was a great soldier with an excellent record on the Western Front in the First World War, and in high commands throughout the Second World War, notably, for Canadians, as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in Italy, where thousands of our troops served under him. Therefore, when he came to Canada as Governor General he had a host of admirers and many personal friends. As you know, he was the last of a series of 17 Governors General appointed from Britain, and in many respects the most successful. He travelled widely in Canada, and was a distinguished and frequent speaker. I remember two of his addresses very well. Altogether he was very popular and much appreciated.

His interest in Canada continued after his retirement; in fact, it is only two months since he visited us in Government House and appeared then to be in settled good health.

On your behalf, as well as for my wife and myself, I have expressed our deep sympathies to Lady Alexander and her family.

We shall miss Lord Alexander in Canada, but we shall not forget him.

The Prime Minister —

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that I speak for all Members of this House and for all Canadians when I say how grieved we are this day on receipt of the news of the death of Earl Alexander of Tunis. His close ties with this country and his obvious liking for Canada and for Canadians gave him a special place in the hearts of all of us.

Earl Alexander served as Governor General of Canada from 1945 through 1952. During that period he became familiar to tens of thousands of Canadians who had the good fortune to meet him in his many

travels throughout this country. To millions of other Canadians who observed his zest for life, his keen interest in skiing, and the roots which members of his family established in Canada, there evolved an open and sincere friendship and admiration. They responded as warmly to him as did he to Canada.

MILITARY FEATS

But it was long before his stay in Canada that Canadians heard of Viscount Alexander, who had earned an exceptional reputation during the war of 1939, as much by his military feats as by his talents as a great strategist. He directed the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 and was one of the last to leave the beach. Later, in Burma, he headed the Allied forces for two years, during the campaign against the Japanese. Moreover, in 1944-45, as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean, he contributed to the victory of the free world; at that time, a motorized brigade and two divisions from Canada were among the troops under his command.

Earl Alexander visited Canada many times following his return to Britain and his assumption of the office of Minister of Defence. The Honorable the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), the Right Honorable Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) and I had the pleasure of travelling with him from Washington to Ottawa only a few weeks ago following the funeral of his old colleague in arms, General Eisenhower. But it is in his role of Governor General that Canadians will remember him best. Then, as host to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on their first tour of Canada in 1951, he established new traditions at Government House by introducing his royal guests and the premises to a lively square dance.

Earl Alexander bears another Canadian distinction. He was sworn a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada.

The passing of Alexander of Tunis will be widely mourned throughout Canada, the Commonwealth and much of the world. He will long be remembered for his human qualities, his inspiring leadership in moments of crisis, his courage, and for the devotion with which he performed his many duties.

I should like, Mr. Speaker, supported by the Leader of the Opposition, to suggest that as a tribute to the memory of this great public servant of his Sovereign, of Canada and of the Commonwealth, and as a mark of our deep sympathy with Lady Alexander, and with all members of Viscount Alexander's family, we stand together for a moment of silence and mournful reflection.

SPORTS AND HISTORY STAMPS

Two six-cent stamps, one honoring the Canada Games, a fresh departure in Canadian amateur sport, and the other commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of Charlottetown as the capital of Prince Edward Island, will be released by the Canada Post Office on August 15.



The Charlottetown horizontal stamp, with dimensions of 40 x 24 mm., will be printed by the British American Bank Note Company, Ottawa. Within a black outline, is a map in reddish-brown suggestive of the soil of Prince Edward Island, that shows the geographic location of Charlottetown. The wording on the surrounding blue background is white.

The Canada Games vertical stamp, 25 million of which will be produced by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, has dimensions of 24 x 40 mm; it will be lithographed in red and green, and blue steel engraving. The design features two flags flying



before a blue panel in the upper part of the stamp; the white flags bear the official insignias of the Winter Games, a white snowflake on a red maple leaf, and the Summer Games, a green "C", within which is a small red maple leaf and a series of small vertical red bars to transform the C to G. Masts for the flags, outlined in blue, project downward through a lower white panel.

CANADA GAMES

The Canada Games began with the 1st Winter Games, held in Quebec City in February 1967 in which some 1,800 athletes, representing all provinces and territories, competed. The twin communities of Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, have been chosen as hosts for the 1st Summer Games, from August 16 to 24 in which it is expected that there will be about 2,500 entrants to compete in 15 sports. Eligibility is

restricted to Canadian citizens or landed immigrants with two years residence in Canada. Capital and operating costs are borne by federal, provincial and municipal governments in co-operation with the Canada Games Society.

CONFEDERATION CAPITAL

Charlottetown, once known as Port la Joie, became the capital of Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province, on August 4, 1769. The first inhabitants, Micmac Indians, knew the area as *Abegwei*, ("Cradled on the Wave"). Later, the Island became Ile St. Jean and, eventually, Prince Edward Island in honor of Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria. Jacques Cartier, was probably the first visitor from the Old World, in the 1530s, though attempts have been made to establish earlier discovery by explorers such as John Cabot, Verazanno and Stephen Gomez.

The Confederation Chamber in the Provincial Building in which the idea of a united Canada was born, at the 1964 Charlottetown Conference, is a continuing attraction for tourists.

LOAN TO TURKEY

Canada has agreed to provide a development loan of \$5 million to the Government of Turkey to finance high-priority projects in that country's second five-year development plan.

The loan is the second Canadian contribution to Turkey's development. It is being given within the framework of a special consortium established under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Canada is already assisting Turkey to expand and modernize its telephone system by providing communications equipment purchased under a \$24.5-million financial arrangement signed in 1967.

Turkey's planned economic development, now in its seventh year, has recorded a substantial expansion of production in both industry and agriculture. Turkey has provided the bulk of the resources which have gone into the financing of this development, and planners are hoping to make the country independent of foreign assistance by 1980.

ROAD TO THE THOUSAND ISLES

The Thousand Islands International Council will bring from Scotland two instructors in piping and highland dancing to teach at its new School for Scottish Performing Arts, to be held this summer on the shore of the St. Lawrence River.

From July 21 to August 1, the Thousand Islands International Field at Collins Landing, New York, will echo the skirl of bagpipes, the tapping of feet and the rumble of drums. The school will be followed by the second annual Thousand Islands International Highland Games at the same field on August 3.

AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

In an address to the Public Accounts Committee on June 17, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, declared that the production of motor vehicles in Canada had increased by 76 per cent, from 671,000 units a year to over 1 million, since the signing of the Canada-United States Automotive Products Agreement in January 1965.

Mr. Pepin's remarks are summarized below:

On January 16, 1965, Canada and the United States signed an Automotive Products Agreement providing for the removal of tariffs and other impediments to trade between the two countries in motor vehicles and parts. Certain conditions were included to enable the industries of both countries to compete in the North American market on an equitable basis. To Canada, these conditions also ensured that a vehicle manufacturing firm would not produce fewer units than it had in 1964.

The conditions, however, did not give any assurance that the Canadian industry would expand within the greater market created by the Automotive Agreement. The Government, therefore, discussed the situation with each of the automobile firms that agreed to undertake a substantial expansion of production over a short term. The Government recognized that in several cases the companies would have difficulty achieving the great expansion and "restructuring" needed in their manufacturing operations.

In each case, companies and departmental officials discussed these difficulties as they developed. The Government indicated that it would be

prepared to evaluate companies on the basis of performance and would give fair consideration to any contingent liability that might arise from their not having satisfied fully any specific condition.

EFFECTS OF AUTO PACT

A number of companies that have experienced difficulties have been brought to the attention of the Public Accounts Committee. The Committee was assured that this group of companies satisfied all the requirements placed upon them by the Government and, in most instances, these requirements were substantially exceeded. Canada's automobile industry has responded positively to the challenge of the new opportunities created by the Agreement. Motor-vehicle production has increased in this period by 76 per cent from 671,000 annually to in excess of 1 million units. The value of factory shipments of parts has grown 71 per cent, from \$628 million to over \$1 billion. Canada's exports of automotive products have increased by 2,400 per cent, to more than \$2.6 billion in 1968. At the same time, thousands of new jobs have been created in the automotive and suppliers industries.

Even with this spectacular growth, Canada's production of automotive products falls far short of its consumption. While expansion is continuing at a satisfactory rate, the fullest co-operation between industry and government, and the fullest support of labor will be necessary to ensure the progress of this industry towards making its just contribution to the national economy.

GOOD WISHES TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU

On June 16, Prime Minister Trudeau sent the following message of congratulation to President Pompidou of France:

The people of France have chosen you to discharge the duties of the highest office of the Republic. On this occasion, I am honored to convey to you the congratulations and the best wishes of the Government and the people of Canada, together with my own.

I earnestly hope that France will prosper and flourish throughout the seven years of your presidency.

It seems only natural to me that our community of history and interests should favor, between our two countries, a continuing dialogue and a spirit of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance. I derive great satisfaction from the concrete measures that France and Canada have already taken in this respect, and I am convinced of the benefits that

would accrue from their diversification and their expansion in those fields in which valuable results have already been obtained.

Please accept, Sir, this expression of my highest personal regards.

SOVIET MARINE EXPERTS VISIT

Mr. T.B. Guzhento, First Deputy Minister of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Merchant Marine, and five senior Ministry officials, spent ten days in Canada, beginning on June 23, as guests of the Department of Transport, to view Canadian marine facilities available to ships of the Soviet Union.

The party visited various installations along the St. Lawrence River and Seaway, as well as DOT marine-research projects at Montreal and at the National Research Council in Ottawa. They also visited facilities at Montreal of the National Harbors

Board, installations of the Toronto Harbor Commission, Hamilton Harbor and the canal operations of the St. Lawrence Authority above Montreal and along the Welland Canal.

In 1954, a Department of Transport group visited the U.S.S.R. and Finland to examine icebreaking problems and icebreaking methods. The following year, a party of icebreaking experts from the Soviet Union came to Canada as the Department of Transport's guests, to gain first-hand information of Canadian icebreaking methods in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and lower St. Lawrence River areas.

Transport Minister Don Jamieson plans to visit the U.S.S.R. at a later date.

CANADA COUNCIL NEW CHIEFS

Appointments to the two top positions at the Canada Council were announced last month by the Secretary of State, Mr. Gérard Pelletier. John G. Prentice, an industrialist from Vancouver, becomes Chairman, and Montreal sociologist Guy Rocher, Vice-Chairman. Each will serve for a five-year term effective June 5. They fill the vacancies made by the departure of Jean Martineau, Q.C., of Montreal and Dr. Francis Leddy of Windsor, whose terms of office as Chairman and Vice-Chairman expired late in June.

Appointments to the 21-member Council that is responsible for distributing federal support to the arts, social sciences and humanities, are made from leading citizens, scholars and artists as well as representatives of the general public. The Council is supported in its work by a permanent staff in Ottawa, including a Government-appointed chief executive, and two large panels of experts, one for the program of research aid and the other for the arts.

COSTS OF CIGARETTE-SMOKING

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, said recently that cigarette-smoking was a serious burden on the Canadian economy. Commenting on a study entitled *The Estimated Cost of Certain Identifiable Consequences of Cigarette-Smoking upon Health, Longevity and Property in Canada in 1966*, carried out by his Department's Research and Statistics Directorate, Mr. Munro said:

"In recent weeks, in testimony given to the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, we have heard a good deal about the economic importance of tobacco production and cigarette manufacture and sale. It is reasonable for such testimony to be given. However, there are various ways to look at this health problem and I thought it advisable to comment on the other side of the issue — the costs of cigarette-smoking in economic as well as other terms — and make available data which indicate the magnitude of these costs. Our estimates suggest that dollar costs are of the order of \$400 million a year."

The estimated cost of certain identifiable consequences of cigarette-smoking in Canada in 1966, as far as it could be determined by the Department, amounted to \$388 million. Lung cancer accounted for \$56 million of this, coronary heart disease for \$201 million, chronic bronchitis for \$14 million, emphysema for \$7 million, other disabilities for \$96 million, and fires caused by smoking for \$13.5 million. The four diseases, to the extent they are attributed to smoking, caused 29,000 cases of illness treated by physicians, 755,000 patient-days in hospital and 5,900 deaths before age 65 for the year 1966.

ESTIMATES CONSERVATIVE

Mr. Munro pointed out that estimates of any kind require that certain assumptions be made, but he believed however that the report *understated* the cost of smoking. In addition to the economic savings, the Minister said, reduction or elimination of the hazards would free for other uses medical and hospital services now used to care for persons with conditions attributable to smoking.

"The potential value of reducing or eliminating the consequences of the hazard," he added, "also extends to alternative uses of money spent for cigarettes. It is reasonable to conclude that much of this money would be used to purchase other taxable goods and retained by the national economy. These considerations, of course, are of secondary importance to what can be done to prevent the suffering, disability and death which at present accompany the problem."

PARKS ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Canada's 18 national parks rose from 10,957,077 in 1967 to 11,855,084 in 1968.

Banff National Park as usual had the largest number of visitors last year — 2,157,847. Next came Prince Edward Island Park, with 1,345,799.

Visitors last year to national historic parks and national historic sites totalled 2,435,521, compared to 2,579,335 in 1967.

There were nearly 10 million visits to Ontario's 96 provincial parks in 1968 and a million visits to the province's 17,000 campsites. Ontario, with more than 8 million acres, has one of the biggest networks of parklands in the world.

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Canadian university and college enrolment continued to set records during the 1967-68 academic year. Some 261,207 full-time university students were in attendance at all Canadian universities and colleges at December 1, 1967, an increase of 12.3 per cent over the comparable total of 232,672 at December 1, 1966.

By region, Ontario showed the largest percentage increase in full-time enrolment over that of the previous year (15.3 per cent), followed by the Atlantic and Western Provinces (11.8 per cent) and Quebec (10.0 per cent). Increases for individual provinces from 1966-67 to 1967-68 ranged from 7.1 per cent for Nova Scotia to 20.2 per cent for Prince Edward Island.

From 1966-67 to 1967-68 undergraduate enrolment increased 11.3 per cent, while graduate enrolment increased 22.6 per cent. The percentage increase in enrolment of females (13.7 per cent) continued to exceed that for males (11.6 per cent).

THE CANADIAN MOSAIC

The traditions and cultures of more than 30 nations are being shown at Montreal's Man and His World exhibition this year in a pavilion devoted to the Canadian "ethnic mosaic".

Sponsored by the Quebec Ethnic Folk Art Council, this attraction features both permanent and changeable exhibits that comprise a unique panorama of the customs, costumes, handicrafts, fashions and art of Canadians of various origins, reflecting their respective contributions to their adopted country.

The presentation includes a broad view of the subject in the main exhibit area, demonstrations of folkways, dance and song and films on folklore on both levels of the auditorium; in another area the heritage of the various ethnic strains is displayed. A different group stages a pageant and display each week and guides and hostesses in national costumes add to the international flavor of the pavilion.

The various ethnic groups are giving performances throughout the exhibition in Place des Nations, in the outdoor theatres and bandshells on the site, and in a series of festivals, pageants and special events.

A gala festival of folk art, will include more than 2,000 singers, dancers and musicians in a performance that will feature entertainment from Italy, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, the Soviet Union, Latvia, Portugal, the Ukraine, Lithuania, Hungary, Greece, Belgium, Croatia, the Philippines, Slovakia, Armenia, India, Poland, Israel, China, Bavaria, Estonia, and the West Indies, among others.

A "People of Canada" pageant is planned, and special "ethnic" days will be devoted to the folklore of the various groups.

NOVA SCOTIA CONTAINER SERVICE

On July 9 a new era began for transportation in Nova Scotia with the opening of a regular "container" service between the deep-water port of Halifax and four important world ports.

By July 1970, three 23,000-ton cellular container ships, costing \$12 million each, will link Halifax with Southampton, Antwerp, New York and Norfolk in

a weekly freight service. Container traffic from Nova Scotia to Europe will move faster than traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway route into Central Canada, and will be competitive in price.

Introduction of the container service comes at a time when the province is engaged in a mammoth program of modernizing and gearing the various modes of transportation to meet the needs of the jet age.

Nova Scotia is at present developing a modern, high-speed transportation system with an initial cost of \$200 million, which consists of new harbor, highway, airport and ocean-ferry facilities.

CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA

(Continued from P. 2)

secondly, by making use of the experience of Canadians who have already had to deal with problems similar to those which Latin Americans must face at the present time.

In the area of commerce, it would be possible to enlarge our bilateral trade, not to mention the beneficial results we could achieve by working together within certain international bodies to improve the conditions of sale abroad for certain products, particularly those of the developing countries.

The recent decision to put into effect immediately all the tariff reductions which Canada negotiated during the Kennedy Round represents a step forward in this general direction on the part of the Canadian Government. This decision was made public in the budget, as was the Government's new system of customs exemptions for tourists returning to Canada, a measure which could benefit some Latin American countries. These two measures are a consequence of our development policies towards these countries. It would be unrealistic on our part to expect to contribute to the industrial development of these countries if we do not open our consumer markets to their products.

In short, even though economic relations between Canada and Latin America are not yet of capital importance, and even though there are real difficulties to overcome, closer relations are indeed possible and would be of advantage to both sides....

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Like most other countries, Canada belongs to a large number of international organizations; international affairs tend more and more to be discussed and even settled within these organizations. It is within these bodies that Canada, since 1945, has had some of its most fruitful contacts with the countries of Latin America. These contacts have occurred mainly at meetings of the United Nations and within several of its bodies, in particular the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Law Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, the International Labor Office, the

World Health Organization, the United Nations Committee on Disarmament and the Economic Commission for Latin America, to which Canada has belonged since 1961....

There is also an international institution to which the countries of Latin America and the United States belong. Canada, on the other hand, is not a member. I am speaking, of course, of the Organization of American States, the OAS, the leading organization of our Hemisphere. Its membership includes two independent countries of the Caribbean - Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago; Jamaica has also just applied for membership. Why, then has Canada never taken the necessary steps to take its place with most of the other countries of the Hemisphere within this Organization?

Generally speaking, it would seem that the imperatives which impelled Canada to join similar organizations - NATO, for example - have not yet made themselves felt in the case of the OAS. Also, most Canadians are not very well informed about the OAS and, among those who know it well, there are a few who are convinced that Canada ought to become a member while others are distrustful and hence, opposed to membership.

If one goes a little more deeply into the arguments involved, one would have to admit that Canada, by joining the OAS, would be taking an unequivocal stand at the side of the countries of the Hemisphere and would at one stroke gain a voice in Hemispheric deliberations on political, economic

and social affairs, and in questions of collective security. On the other hand, the history of the Organization, in particular its evolution during the past few years, and also the parallel evolution of co-operation among member countries of the OAS should be considered....

Canada, wishing to avoid a renewal of the two world wars into which it had been drawn, participated actively in the preparatory work leading to the creation of the United Nations and became a member of this body. However, preoccupied with its own interests, and particularly with its relations with those parts of the world to which it was linked by history, and preoccupied also by its new responsibilities within the United Nations, Canada did not find sufficient reason to join the OAS. I might point out in passing, however, that our country became a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in 1966 and that we have since taken an active part in its work....

From several points of view, the OAS is an admirable Organization. Of course this Organization is not without its weaknesses. It seems to me that it has not always achieved its desired objectives nor always used the appropriate means according to the circumstances. It has done a great deal in the past to preserve the peace of the Hemisphere and to provide this region of the world with a stability and a cohesion which it would not have had otherwise. At the present time, the OAS is in a period of transition....