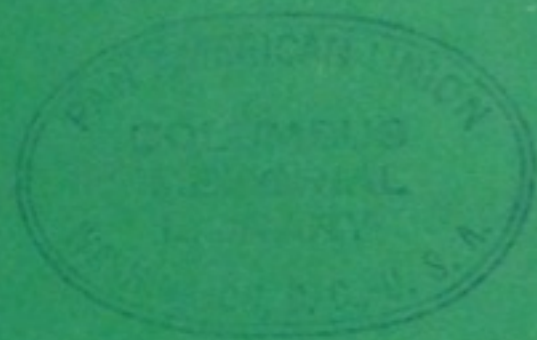


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GANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



Annual Report
OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL

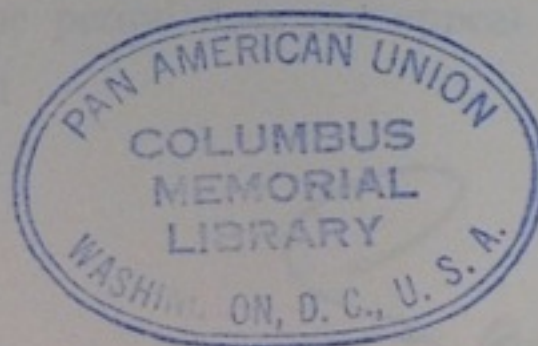
1968

✓ ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Fiscal Year

1967-1968



PAN AMERICAN UNION
General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Washington, D. C.

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with the Institute of Legal Research of the National University of Mexico. This course will be held from November 4, 1968, to January 31, 1969. The Secretary General circulated an announcement of this course, dated May 1, 1968, among universities, bar associations and academies of juridical and social sciences in the American countries.

The Commission attended the special meeting of the Council of the Organization held on April 10, 1968, which observed the twentieth anniversary of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. The Chairman of the Commission reviewed the work it had done in the defense and promotion of the rights established in the Declaration and the Charter of the Organization. The Secretary General reviewed the progress achieved in the field of human rights within the inter-American system, and urged that the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights be approved, as the highest tribute to the International Year for Human Rights.

The Commission participated in the International Conference on Human Rights (Teheran, Iran, April 22 through May 13, 1968). This conference was convoked by the United Nations to study the progress achieved in the field of human rights since the Universal Declaration, and to prepare programs for future activities. The Conference approved 29 resolutions related to various aspects of human rights, in addition to the Proclamation of Teheran.

The General Secretariat presented at the aforementioned conference a document entitled *Report of the Organization of American States to the International Conference on Human Rights—Teheran, Iran, 1968* (OEA/Ser.L/V/1.5). This report includes an account of the activities of the regional organization in the field of human rights. The Commission made a report on this international event (Document 39-19).

SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION

The Secretariat organized two regular sessions at the permanent headquarters. It provided advisory services to the Chairman and other members of the Commission.

It also provided advisory services to the Committee on Juridical-Political Affairs of the Council of the Organization on the task of expanding and bringing up to date the Draft Inter-American Convention on Human Rights. The Secretariat transmitted the correspondence related to the announcement of and information on the Inter-American Course on Human Rights, as well as more than 200 communications regarding denunciations of violations of human rights, matters related to the International Year for Human Rights, and the general work of the Commission.

The Secretariat prepared the following documents:

Comparative Study of the International Covenants on Human Rights Together With the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Adopted by the United Nations (December 1966), the Draft Convention on Human Rights of the Inter-American Council of Jurists (Fourth Meeting, 1959), and the Text of the Amendments to the IACJ Draft Adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (October 1966 and January 1967)

Opinion of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the Comparative Study of the United Nations Cov-

enants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the Draft Inter-American Convention on Human Rights

Working Draft of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of Human Rights (working document)

Protocolo a la Convención Sobre el Estatuto de los Refugiados—Memorandum

The Right of Petition—Background Document

Draft Report on the Situation Regarding Human Rights in Haiti

Legislación de los Países Americanos sobre el Derecho de Sufragio—Suplemento 1961-1968

ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE TECHNICAL MISSION ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights furnished technical and administrative advice and services to the Technical Assistance Mission on Electoral Matters requested by the Government of **Ecuador**.

On May 17, 1968, the Ambassador, Representative of **Ecuador** on the Council of the Organization requested the Secretary General, in the name of his government, to designate "three high-ranking figures of the American hemisphere" to go to Ecuador in the capacity of observers and to be present at the civic event that on June 2 would culminate in the election of President and Vice President of the republic and of senators and deputies to the National Congress.

The Secretary General of the Organization, Dr. José A. Mora, appointed doctors Eduardo Arroyo Lamedá, Víctor F. Goytía, and Guillermo Gutiérrez V. M. to serve on that mission. Dr. Luis Reque accompanied the mission as Executive Secretary.

On June 4, the mission submitted its report to the President of **Ecuador**, Dr. Otto Arosemena Gómez, who subsequently authorized its publication (Document UP/E.1/9).

As a result of the observation made during the electoral process in **Ecuador**, the report expressed the following considerations:

1. The Observers concur in the judgment universally expressed by political parties and by the citizenry in general respecting the absolute impartiality of the authorities and the irreproachable conduct of the Armed Forces and the Police.
2. As far as the Observers could verify, the Electoral Supreme Court and the Provincial Courts complied with the laws and regulations in force. The Boards of Elections began their work punctually, were composed in the manner provided by law, and suffered no interference with their task of vigilance and control of representatives of the political parties. In accordance with the law, the Boards of Elections ended their work at the hour established and immediately began the provisional tally of the votes, which, so far as the Observers could tell, was carried out in a correct and orderly fashion.
3. The Observers are pleased to point to the exemplary attitude of the voters and make special mention of the women who for the first time were exercising, as an obligation, their right to go to the polls. In sum, the entire

population participated in the events of June 2 with great civic spirit.

4. For these elections the single-sheet ballot was used, which was a totally new experience for the electorate and which met with satisfactory results. Without the least doubt this system contributed to the purity of the electoral process. Nevertheless, the tables and desks used by the voters to mark the single-sheet ballot were badly located and furthermore were exposed to public view. Therefore it is

essential that polling places be furnished with booths to assure the secrecy of the vote.

Finally, the members of the mission made official mention of the civic spirit of the Ecuadorian people in the electoral contests, which, in the opinion of the technical group "strengthened the system of representative democracy in the Republic of Ecuador."

VI. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

AFFILIATION OF BARBADOS AS A MEMBER STATE

It is appropriate to include among the main juridical-political events of this period the affiliation of **Barbados** as the twenty-third member of the Organization of American States. The application for admission presented by the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Errol W. Barrow, in September 1967, was transmitted to the Council of the Organization on the eighteenth of that month. In accordance with the procedure established in the Act of Washington, the request was studied and approved by the Council on October 4. **Barbados** signed the Charter of the Organization on October 9 and deposited the corresponding instrument of ratification on November 15, 1967.

VISITS BY AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

1. Mexico

On October 26, 1967, the Council of the Organization held a protocolary meeting in honor of Mr. Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, President of **Mexico**. On that occasion, the President reiterated his country's faith in the principles contained in the Charter of the Organization. He added that "many of our problems, viewed realistically, stem from the fact that we have not always emphasized with sufficient clarity and courage the need for the peoples themselves to take the lead in transforming themselves and for them to play a dynamic part in the preparation and application of the formulas that can lead us to progress."

The Mexican President explained that independent development is taken to mean that "the realization of our aims should, fundamentally, be the fruit of our own efforts and resources. . . . The responsibility of the governments and of the peoples of Latin America cannot be transferred or avoided."

President Díaz Ordaz emphasized that **Mexico's** greatest hopes were in agreement with those of the other Latin American countries, which are "to create industrious communities in which the benefits may accrue to all, where each and every one will have the right to decide his own destiny."

2. Paraguay

General Alfredo Stroessner, President of **Paraguay**, visited the headquarters of the Organization on March 21,

1968. At the protocolary session held in his honor by the Council, the Paraguayan President described Latin American integration as a fundamental condition for achieving a high standard of living and for making the hemisphere into a uniform region. He stated that his government recognized the full standing of the Action Program established in the Declaration of the Presidents of America and that it was ready to support all the measures set forth therein. In the opinion of General Stroessner, the process of converting the Latin American Free Trade Association into a Latin American Common Market should be pursued, not only because the chiefs of state so resolved, but also because it was one of the specific objectives set forth in Article 54 of the Treaty of Montevideo.

President Stroessner made a friendly appeal to the other governments of America to ratify the Protocol of Buenos Aires so that the amended charter would enter into force as soon as possible.

3. Costa Rica

The third chief of state to visit the headquarters of the Organization during the period covered by this report was Mr. José Joaquín Trejos Fernández, President of **Costa Rica**, who came on June 5, 1968. At that time, the President deposited with the General Secretariat his government's instrument of ratification of the Protocol of Buenos Aires.

In the address he delivered to the protocolary meeting held in his honor by the Council of the Organization, President Trejos referred to Latin American economic integration and pointed out that, to overcome the obstacles inherent in the integration processes, it was necessary to overcome jealousy and rivalry among the countries and to further the concept that the common good of Latin America is not incompatible with the common good of each nation. "This," he said, "calls for the evolution of a Latin American mystique, which can only become a powerful factor for progress if it is founded, not only on the friendship but on the brotherhood of our peoples and primarily of their governments."

Among the basic conditions for a Latin American economic community, President Trejos mentioned construction of infrastructure, education, and community development programs. He also expressed his conviction that rather than to continue the proliferation of new inter-American agencies for the purpose of promoting the development of the American countries, the OAS should be strengthened.