

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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Annual Report OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL

1962

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

It is not my intent, in this first part of the report that I herewith submit for consideration by the Council of the Organization of American States, to summarize the past year's activities of the agencies of the system. These activities, ever more numerous and diverse, are reported systematically and chronologically in the following chapters. The sole purpose of this introduction is to stress facts and circumstances that have particularly contributed to making 1962 unique in the historical development of the Organization.

The task accomplished has certainly not been easy, or free of grave anxieties and perils; admittedly, the causes of many threats and dangers that kept the instruments responsible for hemisphere peace and security on constant alert still lurk on the American scene. But whatever the difficulties, the important, the fundamental thing is that the machinery for averting and resolving them should operate effectively. Subjected to the sternest tests, the inter-American system has at all times responded with adequate coordination and synchronization. The case of Cuba provides an excellent example of this.

The Cuban Experience

We live in an era characterized by enormous and rapid technological development. Applications of science to industry, both for peace and for war, increase in geometric progression. The implications of this undeniable fact are far-reaching: all human institutions, whatever their nature and purpose, may be said to be affected by it directly or indirectly. The international legal order, therefore, cannot escape the exigencies it presents.

During the Cuban crisis our regional association was compelled to adapt the letter of its treaties to situations and circumstances whose nature could not have been foreseen in the period when these treaties were signed. Indeed the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of our own Organization, and the Rio Treaty should be considered as instruments that antedated the entry of mankind into the Atomic Age. Thus, the concepts "armed attack," "aggression which is not an armed attack," and "individual or collective self-defense" must be interpreted in the light of new circumstances when, for example, the destructive potential of a nuclear missile installation may threaten imminent and inevitable devastation.

Even before the end of 1961, the Council of the Organization had to re-examine the Cuban question because of requests presented in turn by the governments of Peru and Colombia. The legal and political bases upon which the decisions thereupon taken by the Eighth Meeting of Consultation rest are of signal importance. One in particular should be emphasized as corroborating what I have said—the resolution excluding the present

Government of Cuba from all participation in the inter-American system. This measure, implicit in the essential purposes of the Organization and of the Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, was made possible by that capacity for adaptation to which I have referred. The decision, moreover, formally states that adherence by any member state to Marxism-Leninism is incompatible with the principles and objectives that constitute the reason for being of the inter-American system.

Another measure adopted against the Cuban regime on that occasion, the suspension of trade in arms and implements of war, while it represents a type of action expressly provided for in the Rio Treaty, also constitutes an innovation so far as the development and flexibility of the system are concerned. In short, the prompt and effective collective reaction of the member countries, prepared to exercise their right of self-defense against the Soviet Union's clandestine installation of guided missiles and other extremely dangerous weapons in Cuba, is evidence of American solidarity and at the same time demonstrates clearly the advisability of making the legal mechanisms of the system more flexible, in order to adapt them to the needs of new situations.

The Social and Political Progress of the Alliance

At the end of last year I had the honor to present to this Council the final documents of the deliberations of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, which was scheduled to meet in Mexico City from October 2 to 27, 1962. This was unquestionably a landmark in the carrying out of the Alliance for Progress plans since for the first time in America the national development programs were evaluated comparatively. Now that I again have a suitable opportunity, I should like to offer some pertinent considerations, since the results of these inter-American meetings add to the past year's store of achievements and encourage confidence in the future.

The Alliance for Progress, considered as a joint enterprise of governments and peoples, cannot free itself of its obvious spiritual and ideological consequences. If any one thing characterized the exhaustive examination of the practical results of a year's efforts, it was a deep and general conviction that the success of all the Alliance plans will be determined by the reaction of Latin American public opinion; that it depends, in other words, on the spontaneous and resolute cooperation of those who help form group attitudes—political leaders, lawmakers, union leaders, journalists, and youth.

Linking the future of the Alliance to the historical destiny of the American republics is equivalent to giving this great international commitment a new patriotic, nationalistic significance. It was for this reason that IA-ECOSOC decided, in Mexico, to seek a mobilization of will to carry forward what it called the ideological and political advance of the Alliance, and that it appealed to the OAS Council and to the General Secretariat to promote and facilitate relations and contacts among political, labor, and youth groups and, in general, representatives of every sector of society that has anything to do with molding public opinion.

Furthermore, the analysis and comparison of Alliance for Progress achievements at the close of its first year made apparent the urgent necessity of speeding up the adaptation of national institutions to the demands of progress. In other words, of unhesitatingly and unreservedly carrying out the democratic revolution that will put many Latin American countries in a position to receive and assimilate the great benefits that can be derived from foreign economic and technical aid. This requires governors and governed to unite patriotically in a decisive effort to overcome the inertia of ancient institutions and eradicate the last vestiges of colonialism from American soil.

*Technical
Cooperation in
Electoral Matters*

The General Secretariat of the OAS had occasion during 1962 to provide technical cooperation in electoral matters to the governments of the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, at their specific request.

Any possibility of interference in the domain of national sovereignty was eliminated by the fact that in each instance the initiative came from a member state—and that is the only basis on which technical assistance is given.

In the case of the Costa Rican elections held on February 4, 1962, the Technical Mission appointed by the General Secretariat at the request of the Costa Rican Government was afforded all the facilities necessary for the exercise of its functions and immediately submitted a highly favorable report on the manner in which the elections were conducted. This report was published with the authorization of that government.

As for the Dominican Republic, the Organization's participation has antecedents with which the Council is familiar and that go beyond the one-year scope of this report. In accordance with the request of the Dominican Government, a juridical study was made of the electoral legislation that was to serve as the foundation for the elections held on December 20, 1962. Subsequently, through the General Secretariat, the Government invited a group of observers to attend the elections and at the same time organized a symposium on representative democracy. The symposium was held from December 17 to 22, 1962. The General Secretariat published a report containing recommendations and commentaries of special relevance to the promotion and progress of democratic institutions and the application of the basic principles of the inter-American system.

*Education, Science,
and Culture*

During the past year a structural reform of exceptional importance took place in the internal organization of the Pan American Union—the establishment of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Cultural, Scientific and Informational Affairs. The Council promptly expressed its approval of this move by the General Secretariat, and the new policy of giving equal importance to all the various branches of inter-American cooperative action was thus confirmed.

The General Secretariat has in fact become increasingly concerned about the possibility of disequilibrium in the Pan American Union's substantive programs—both the regular programs and those connected with the Alliance for Progress—owing to the rapid increase in activities in the economic and social fields. The advisability of balancing the satisfaction of material needs with that of spiritual can not be ignored, since moral values play a decisive part in the formation of attitudes, and protection and support are required for the sizable groups of intellectuals working in the various branches of culture.

Education has been called the key that opens the doors to prosperity. Investments in education, by improving human resources, make easier and quicker the full utilization of natural resources in the developing countries. But teaching the rudiments of culture to the vast majority is not enough. To supplement this, the exceptionally gifted must be given every opportunity to develop their abilities and aptitudes.

Education, science, and culture comprise a triad of prime importance that demands special treatment within the general economic and social development plans. Hence the new Office of the Assistant Secretary, created to coordinate, orient, and stimulate projects that are proposed and carried on in its specific fields, is a major contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Organization and more efficient attainment of the great goals of the Alliance for Progress.