

SECRET

Tuesday, March 5, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: NSC Meeting on Latin America; Noon, Wednesday, March 6

ITEM 1

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss our policy and the problems we face in Latin America during 1968.

There is attached a paper, "Inter-American Region -- Policy Objectives and Problems--1968," which has been circulated to Council members. (Tab A) A one-page summary of the paper is at Tab B.

Secretary Rusk is prepared to start the discussion by summarizing the paper. He may call on Assistant Secretary Oliver or Deputy Assistant Secretary Sayre to elaborate on his summary. (~~Assistant Secretary Oliver will be present unless he is detained at a Latin America Subcommittee hearing being held by Senator Morse which begins at 10:30 a.m.)~~)

Should you wish to ask questions, here are four:

1. What can we do to prevent a clash between the Robles and Arias factions in Panama which could spill over into the Zone and set back the gains we have made in the treaty negotiations?

2. Do we have a plan for reinvigorating the OAS to put before the new Secretary General, including making CIAP an effective instrument for policy and action?

3. Do our Ambassadors in Latin America appreciate the importance of "preventive medicine" in combating communist insurgency and are they making maximum use of our military and police programs in this regard?

4. What can we do to get the Latin Americans to move toward economic integration as they agreed ^{at} Punta del Este?

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.5
NLJ-S 98001

By cbm, NARA, Date 7-10-02

~~SECRET~~

To conclude the discussion, you may wish to direct that:

1. Maximum efforts should be made to maintain political stability and encourage constitutional procedures in Latin America, in order to keep up the "no-military-coup" record in existence since July 1966.
2. The change of guard at the OAS should be used to project a new image of creative, dynamic leadership for the OAS. In the process, CIAP should be revitalized to give the Alliance for Progress the leadership it was designed to provide.
3. A report should be prepared on the steps which might be taken to persuade the South American countries to move forward on economic integration to meet the Punta del Este schedule.

ITEM 2

Information Report

If time permits, Deputy Under Secretary of State Bohlen will be prepared to give a brief report on the tactics used by the Soviets in attempting to control Communist Party leaders' meeting in *Budapest* ~~Bucharest~~. and ^{the} scheduled meeting in Sofia.

15/
W. W. Rostow

BKS:amc

~~SECRET~~