



I.I.A.A.

BUILDING A BETTER HEMISPHERE SERIES NO. 2

*10 Years of Point 4
in Action*

IN LATIN AMERICA

By

KENNETH R. IVERSON

PRESIDENT
THE INSTITUTE OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

REPRINTED FROM
EXPORT TRADE AND SHIPPER
JAN. 7 AND JAN. 28, 1952

POINT 4 IN ACTION

THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

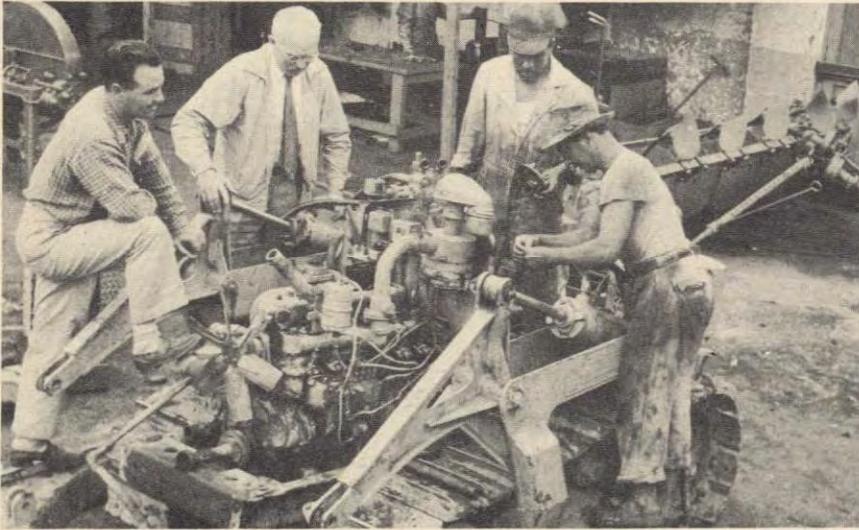
The Institute of Inter-American Affairs



One of the most spectacular as well as successful campaigns of inter-American cooperation was the use of a U. S. helicopter to fight yellow fever in Costa Rica.



In Haiti a U. S. technician tells how to use U. S. spraying equipment in cooperative service.



Technical assistance of IIAA program in Peruvian food supply program includes aid in maintenance and repair of tractors and other mechanical equipment for farms.



Settlement program financed by Paraguay receives technical aid from U. S.-Paraguayan "servicio."



This visiting nurse in Bolivia is making one of the "servicio" calls which in a recent six-month period totaled 216,542 in nine Latin-American countries.



Children benefit from cooperative education programs in nine Latin-American countries.

Ten Years of Point Four in Action in Latin America

By Kenneth R. Iverson

President
The Institute of Inter-American Affairs
(A United States Government Point IV Agency)

ON March 31, 1952, The Institute of Inter-American Affairs will complete its tenth year of cooperative technical assistance in the basic economic fields of health and sanitation, agriculture and education, in cooperation with 18 Latin American countries.

This anniversary coincides with the decision of the Technical Cooperation Administration, Department of State, to utilize the pioneer experience of The Institute of Inter-American Affairs. It has made the Institute its regional office for all technical assistance programs in Latin America.

A Regional Activity

As part of the President's Point 4 program, in its expanded scope of operation, the IIAA acts as one of the three regional offices of the TCA which have been assigned responsibilities to direct technical assistance activities throughout the world.

The Institute at the same time is offering its long-time successful experience to the TCA's new Near East and Africa Development Service and an Asia Development Service which will function similarly to the IIAA. Together these programs offer one of the most effective substantive contributions of the United States to the free world against Communism.

Achievements of the long-established IIAA are highlighted in several fields: food supply, health and sanitation, education, and public administration.

Cost Is Modest

The bilateral program for 1952 calls for \$18,000,000 in Latin America, approximately twice as large as that in 1951.

In applying to Congress for funds, the program for bilateral and multi-lateral programs for the other American republics was as follows:

1. \$18,000,000 for a bilateral program to be administered by the United States;



Mr. Iverson

2. \$3,000,000 for a program to be administered by the United Nations and its specialized agencies;

3. \$1,000,000 to be administered by the Organization of American States.

Program Is Conservative

The bilateral program prepared for execution in 1952 is the IIAA's best judgment, considering recommendations from the Embassies, Department of State officers and the several TCA agencies of a sound, well-justified approach to the problem of economic and social development in the Western Hemisphere.

In the field of technical assistance in agriculture and development of natural resources a new element has been injected—public and private investments. The national banks in Peru and in Paraguay in response to nine years of field demonstrations jointly made by the U.S. and the host governments are indicating greater interest in these activities.

Example in Peru

The Institute of Inter-American Affairs has been assisting several of the Latin-American governments in supplying background information to the international lending agencies which are considering loans to these governments. As an example, consideration is being given to a possible loan to Peru to be used to acquire more agricultural machinery to increase pools for tilling land, thresh-

ing, spraying, opening irrigation ditches, leveling and contouring, all to be rented to Peruvian farmers on a pay-as-you-go-basis.

In Paraguay, the bureau or servicio of that government through which the Government of Paraguay and the Institute administer the Point 4 agricultural development program and which servicio is known as STICA, has made it possible to complete nine years of activity and start a resettlement program eventually to embrace 100,000 farm families.

Local Cooperation

The Bank of Paraguay finances resettlement, and STICA provides the demonstrations and the training of the men, in a country which has only nine graduates of an agricultural college. The program is based on a pilot colonization program organized several years ago with 57 picked families. Lately, 78,000 acres of land have been provided to 570 penniless farmers, all without credit ratings.

Money to build a home, buy implements, livestock, seed and fertilizer and adequate time to pay off their loans were provided by the National Bank of Paraguay. The security lies in STICA's trained supervision and its series of agricultural projects which provide better seed, better breeding stock, and instruction in modern agricultural methods.

Project in Haiti

In Haiti the irrigation of the Artibonite Valley will become a reality soon, based on approval of the loan requested by the Haitian Government, from the Export-Import Bank of Washington. Two-thirds of \$14,000,000 will be provided by the bank and the difference is to be appropriated by the Haitian Government.

Final plans have been drafted by a U.S. engineering firm, whereas SCIPA (the Haiti-IIAA cooperative agricultural office) made the preliminary studies for the irrigation of

72,000 acres of land. This is another example in which the cooperative servicios of the government and the IIAA are leading the action for the improvement of underdeveloped areas.

Private Enterprise Participates

A striking example of joint Peruvian-U. S. private capital at work is provided by the organization of several corporations for the purpose of drilling water wells along the arid 1,400-mile-long Peruvian coast. The pioneering work was set up by SCIPA after a study of the possibilities for supplementing the scarce coastal rivers with underground water. SCIPA technicians have assisted private companies to start in this field with a very promising future.

With SCIPA's assistance rigs and mechanized equipment have been bought in the United States directly by the newly established corporations. SCIPA now is pioneering a new aspect of the development of underground water by renting pumps for low water wells, thus encouraging private capital to undertake further operations.

Land Development

Development of new lands in the Peruvian Amazon jungle has been completed recently with \$135,000 provided by the Peruvian Government through SCIPA, while the United States contributed with technical advice. Twenty thousand acres of jungle land are being developed to determine and demonstrate the feasibility of farming and ranching in this area.

Recently, over 30 tons of good corn have been harvested and stored; 250 tons of manioc or yucca have been also harvested, and enough pasture is available for 100 head of cattle. This cattle was acquired from Florida and Texas and has been sent across the Andes by truck. The farm consists of permanent buildings, a sawmill, and all modern facilities.

Peruvians with capital watch the jungle demonstration with great interest. If the venture shows that it is profitable private Peruvian capital will follow. The same interest is shown on a sheep farm in the high sierras of Peru's Province of Cajamarca. On this sierra farm of 35,000 acres, there are approximately 300

Indian families whose ancestors have been there for centuries.

For the first time in 350 years, this large farm may be expected to produce an income that will permit the economic employment of these Indian families and still provide them with an opportunity to work their own individual allocated plots of land on the farm. Both the jungle cattle farm and the sierra sheep farm are demonstrations and are opened to the scrutiny of every national or foreign farmer interested in the possibility of a sound investment.

Defeats Communist Threats

How the joint Latin American IIAA projects cut the ground out from under Communism was recently illustrated in Peru. The Camana Valley, isolated by nature from the rest of the country, had 8,500 inhabitants which the Communist Party had organized a few years ago even electing a congressman. The President of Peru called upon the cooperative program to build and run a rice mill in this region.

It was agreed to on condition that the program would not be involved in politics and would do only those things necessary for agricultural development. Not only is a rice mill now functioning with the most modern dehydrating equipment, but Camana farmers have improved methods of spraying, irrigation, plowing, cultivating and harvesting. Today the valley's income is five times what it was before the servicio began its constructive work. And the appreciative government reports the Communist threat has vanished.

Farm Credit Facilities

Recently the joint program of which the IIAA is a party has been concentrating on spreading the organization of farm credit facilities. Also the program has been increasing the educational campaign in the Latin American countries in which it is cooperating in the operation of agricultural programs. This cooperation assists the farmers through extension services. 4-H Clubs and home-demonstration techniques, as well as trying to induce private and national credit to implement the work of Point 4 in action.

Representative activities of the cooperative programs of which IIAA is a party in the field of agriculture in fiscal 1951 included distribution

of 264,215 forest and fruit seedlings, in Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru; distribution of 705,-810 pounds of seed in those same five countries; 199 4-H Clubs with a total of 4,382 members in Costa Rica, Haiti and Peru; 91 extension offices, in Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, and Peru; and services to farmers, either by visits of farmers to extension offices, or visits by extension agents, for a total of 139,952 visits in the five countries mentioned above.

Increase Buying Power

While the development projects will improve the competitive position of our neighbors in world trade, they also will increase their ability to share in the many modern products the world has to offer. It is to our credit that we recognize the over-all advantage of a prosperous healthy neighbor—and that a farmer is in the market for an automobile, a radio set, or a refrigerator only when he produces the food he needs for his family, plus a little extra to sell and pay for an imported product.

On a broad and diverse front, projects IIAA participates in have been improving health and sanitation as indispensable parts of the program to strengthen the hemisphere and raise the standard of living. In addition to projects in a construction sense, advice flows continually under a general service which can hardly be measured in dollars. For instance, three IIAA executives recently met with health officials of Mexico, California, and the World Health Organization and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to intensify venereal disease control in several border cities. It was decided to continue an existing program for six months and investigate means of inaugurating a broad community-wide preventive program on both sides of the border.

Six Months Program

During the past six months, health and sanitation projects have progressed toward the postwar goals of the Latin American Governments and the IIAA to establish well-rounded nation-wide public-health programs staffed by trained nationals and focussed primarily on the problems of environmental sanitation and preventive medicine in the broadest sense. The job of providing public

care for the sick and the infirm had been undertaken in specific areas by many of the servicios in the earlier, wartime days. Now it is largely being taken over by the regular national and local health agencies of the host republics.

In 17 Countries

Today active in 17 countries in health and sanitation, the IIAA is a party to the operation of 85 full-scale health centers in 9 of the countries with a total of 1,275 full-time and 159 part-time employees. The areas served by these have a combined population of 1,500,000. Latest figures for a six-month period show that the centers received 806,348 visits, performed a total of 300,049 immunizations against specific diseases, and sent their visiting nurses on a total of 216,542 calls to homes.

Other types of health facilities—dispensaries, clinics, and mobile units—perform essentially the same type of services as the health centers. At present 53 of these less elaborate facilities are being operated with 405 employees covering areas with a population of more than 20,000,000. While complete statistics are difficult to assemble from extremely remote areas, the total visits since 1942 are estimated to be at least 4,500,000, with some 1,500,000 immunizations performed.

P.H.S. Collaborates

At the request of The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, the Public Health Service of the Federal Security Agency is collaborating in an evaluation of the health and sanitation servicio program in Latin America. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in promoting national and local health development, the rate at which the programs and methods initiated are being incorporated into the permanent health structure and the extent to which the program has influenced the health habits of the people in the Latin American areas in which it has been undertaken. It is expected that this work will be of benefit to the programs in Latin America and also will help to develop patterns and methods of developing similar programs in other parts of the world in which the United States is interested.

Earthquake Relief

On May 6, 1951, an earthquake in the eastern section of El Salvador destroyed three major towns with a combined urban population of 20,578. Including other smaller towns and adjacent rural areas, the total population affected was 95,000. Approximately 250 people were killed and 310 received major injuries. One town was completely destroyed.

The Institute of Inter-American Affairs through May 29 of this year rendered all possible assistance through the servicio, such as transportation furnished to the Ministry of Public Health, the Red Cross and the Hydraulic Service for the injured, evacuees, etc. A nurse of the IIAA worked with the Red Cross assisting the evacuees in San Salvador and the injured in the San Miguel Hospital. Engineers of the IIAA and servicio made surveys of available water sources in the vicinity north of the completely destroyed town that might be used for supplying temporary camps.

The servicio made the frames for 118 cots to be used by evacuee children who had illnesses not requiring hospitalization. Most significant of all was the fact that Salvador was able to help itself in a relative sense as a result of the Institute's cooperative program over a period of years—which is the objective at which we are aiming.

THE training program of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in the field of health and sanitation has been developed during the last fiscal year within these limits: available funds, the number of the linguistically eligibles for fellowships, and the possibility of their having jobs with the corresponding governments.

Nine Countries Helped

So far a total of 48 trainees have received grants-in-aid in nine countries. The breakdown by specialties is as follows: physicians 13, sanitary engineers 13, nurses 14, and laboratory and chemistry 8. The Institute training program was begun June 1, 1943, although considerable numbers of Latin-American leaders were brought up under the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. In fact, 1,302 have been brought to the United States

from 1940 through the calendar year 1951.

Among the training grants this year, the Institute has given one to Dr. Frederico Rios, director of the leper colony hospital of Sapucay, Paraguay. The Paraguayan health and sanitation servicio has already built a hospital and given all possible help to the sufferers of Hanson's disease who live in the Santa Isabel Colony, which has its own police, band, sports and its own agricultural rehabilitation program.

Dr. Rios is now studying advanced dermatology and hospital administration at Tulane University and the operation of the leprosarium at Carville, Louisiana. In the last fiscal year the health and sanitation program has provided the latest mental health tenets as well as the most modern wonder drugs for the patients of the servicio leper hospital.

The post-war objective of providing environmental sanitation takes the form of constructing and improving safe community water-supply systems. Since 1942, a total of 121 such systems have been built, and 54 other systems have been modernized. Most of these projects have been in small communities with an aggregate population of more than 1,750,000. In addition, the servicios have built 49 new sewerage systems and have improved 14 existing systems in communities having an aggregate of more than 1,000,000. Even more importantly, the local and national governments in the same period, as a contributing result of the joint servicio programs, have constructed 379 new water supply systems for communities with a total population of 3,500,000, and 259 new sewerage systems for communities with a total of more than 2,250,000.

Campaigns have been waged against specific diseases in specific areas, including malaria, yaws, typhus and other ailments. In Costa Rica, for example, an outbreak of yellow fever was halted with the help of a helicopter. The servicio paid emergency expenses for use of an Air Force helicopter which in 11 days, and operating in jungle regions, made 43 landings and 978 inoculations, checking the spread of the fever after 31 deaths had been reported. Altogether, the campaign against yellow fever in Costa Rica totalled

75,224 vaccinations.

Joint Education Program

The Institute of Inter-American Affairs' joint education program includes the training program for trainees undergoing instruction in the United States as recommended by the IIAA. It also includes the many on-the-spot training programs carried on in the Latin American countries. This joint program has been expanded to fill a need complementing the others as obviously basic to the strength, prosperity, and progress of any country.

There are nine cooperative education programs and two special projects in as many countries. They are concerned with elementary education in Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru, and with industrial education in Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. In addition there are special projects in industrial education in Chile and El Salvador.

The IIAA cooperates with various international agencies both in the field and in Washington. In the field an interesting program of collaboration has been worked out between the Bolivian Government, UNESCO and the cooperative education servicios at Warisata, 14,000 feet high in the Andes.

OAS Cooperation

In Washington, the IIAA has been working with the OAS (Organization of American States) in drawing up plans for a hemisphere seminar on vocational education. Also, IIAA has been cooperating with the OAS in selecting and preparing teaching materials for vocational education.

In order to make the best use of the comparatively few teaching specialists available through the servicios, the educational program relies on the nucleus or *nucleo* system: each central school of a nucleo functions as an ordinary elementary school, but has a servicio-trained director who performs two specialized kinds of duties.

First, he is responsible for the administrative supervision of anywhere from five to twenty affiliated rural schools in the area. Secondly, he carries the responsibility for technical guidance of these same schools along lines being stressed in the servicio's elementary education program. The number of elementary

schools with which servicios are working is 1,167; the number of teachers in elementary schools receiving servicio guidance is 2,449; and the total number of pupils being taught by servicio-guided teachers is 69,038. Similarly, the number of schools receiving servicio guidance in vocational training is 88; the number of teachers receiving such guidance is 1,426, and the number of students, 16,626.

Altogether, 269 education specialists of various types have been brought to the United States under servicio or IIAA auspices for study and observation of United States educational methods. In addition, 21,132 teachers have been trained in servicio-operated short courses of "work-shops" during the vacation period. Finally the servicios are working with a total of 14 normal schools in Latin America with a combined enrollment of 1,579.

The Institute of Inter-American Affairs and 18 Latin American countries have been carrying on programs covering 33 health and sanitation, education and agricultural programs with approximately 2,800 projects. Its staff in the field numbers about 280 technicians and in Washington 138. Working alongside these technicians are about 8,800 Latin Americans. The average matching contributions by the Latin American participating nations, if U.S. salaries and equipment are not included, is approximately \$8.00 to \$1.00 from the United States. All IIAA administrative expenses are included, the ratio is better than \$3.00 to \$1.00 from the United States.

Program Fulfillments

Manifestly, this broad and deep program of technical assistance fulfills the historic Good Neighbor program, particularly in the aspect of that policy to encourage self-help, self-reliance, and self-respect. Also, the program fulfills not only the specific call of the President for Point Four technical assistance, but also fulfills the President's further observation in the Point Four speech: "Experience shows that our commerce with other countries expands as they progress industrially and economically."

The IIAA program over the past decade perhaps has touched directly or indirectly more than half the population of the United States. But

this achievement, even though it is considered one of the more successful phases of United States foreign policy, hardly can satisfy those who find, for example, that even one of the richest and most naturally endowed nations, Brazil, has manpower productivity estimated as low as one-eighth that of the United States; a life expectancy of 40 years, compared to about 68 per capita in the United States; land under cultivation representing but four per cent of the country's area; and hardly one out of every three children in primary schools in rural areas. Here then is the call to greater effort to supply the best techniques to produce an abundance of food to improve health and sanitation, to eliminate illiteracy, and to develop and expand other techniques to help win "the only war we want"—against hunger, poverty, and disease.

Essence of Point IV Plan

The essence of the Point Four philosophy, of which the IIAA is an instrument, is perhaps best expressed by the late Dr. Henry G. Bennett, Administrator of the Technical Cooperation Administration, who recently lost his life in an airplane disaster, when he said:

"Our friends of the underdeveloped areas do not want charity. They want to become independent, by their own efforts, of our help and of all outside help. They are eternally right in asking us to share knowledge and skill—which cannot be *given* away—so that they may achieve self-reliance and the dignity that goes with it. They represent old cultures that long pre-date ours . . . They would not permit us to superimpose our culture on theirs, even if we were so foolish as to try. There are as many paths to progress as there are nations. They want to choose their own."

"The program of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs is one of the world's best examples of mutual effort by democratic nations to solve their most pressing economic and social problems. No other overseas government program better fulfills the historic good neighbor policy of the United States. The experience of the Institute shows us how technical assistance can be made available on a cooperative basis not only in the Western Hemisphere but also in other parts of the world under the Point Four concept."

The President of the United States.



Proud mother watches child read as teacher trained in "servicio" education program looks on.



Elementary school children in nine Latin-American countries learn with help of "flash cards" as cooperative servicios bring efficient teaching methods to build stronger nations.



Irrigation project in Haiti's Artibonite Valley now supplies water for 7,000 acres.



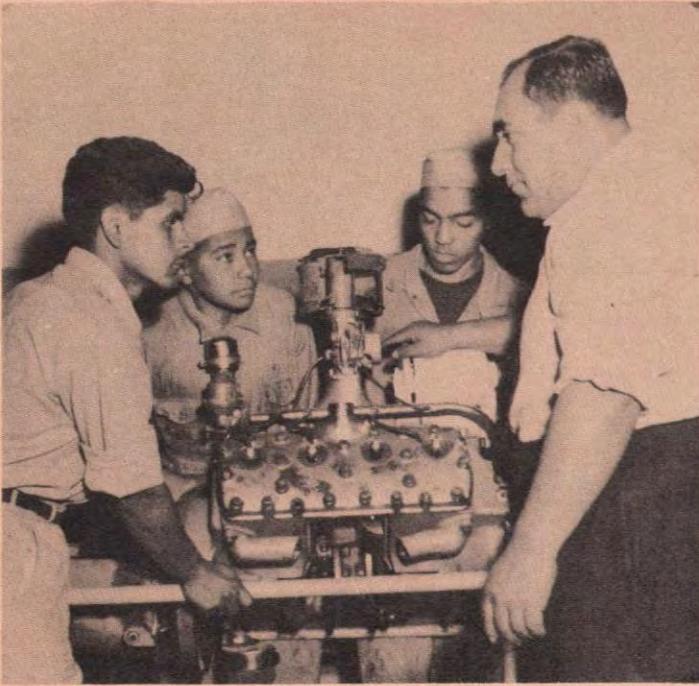
These grain storage silos and warehouse were built with Costa Rican capital and technical assistance from specialists of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs.



Chief of Brazilian health center checks patient suffering from heart disease.



In a free clinic operated by the U. S.-Bolivian "servicio," Indian mothers consult the doctor.



The Latin American industrial education program includes instruction in automobile maintenance and repair.



Photo displays of proper farm practices always attract interest during field day demonstrations.

BUILDING A BETTER HEMISPHERE SERIES

1. *The Servício* In Theory And Practice
2. *10 Years of Point 4 in Action* in Latin America
3. *Agricultural Assistance* Through Capital Investment
4. The Program of *The Rio Doce Valley*. A Serviço in Action
5. *Boomtown, South America*. The Story of Tingo Maria
6. *Industrial Education* in Brazil
7. *When Good Neighbors Get Together*.
8. *The Role of Education* in Technical-Assistance Programs

The above publications may be obtained upon request from
THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
333 THIRD STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 25, D. C.