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Point IV in Latin America

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POINT 4 IN ACTION

THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Raymond Russell, IIAA entomologist in Peru, supervising the application of copper sprays on potatoes in the Huaylas area with the pack sprayer.

Point IV in Latin America

By C. O. ROWE
Vice-President, Institute of Inter-American Affairs

Mr. Rowe, in explaining implementation of Point IV Program in Latin America, points out it is a cooperative project, in which the benefited countries contribute. Reveals program of technical assistance and grants made for training in research and development of agriculture, industry and natural resources. Describes work of "Servicio," which is the operating agency for Latin American technical assistance. Claims success for Point IV Program in Latin America.

Mr. Russell (right), explains to farmer (center) in the presence of Rural Agent Duarte (left) at Huancayo, the method for the correct application of Gammexane to control Andean beetle on potatoes.

As their standard of living improves, the free peoples of Latin America become better suppliers of their own domestic needs and more generous participants in world trade.

C. O. Rowe

Perhaps United States-Latin American trade statistics may be significant. The yearly average value of U. S. exports to Latin America in the period 1936-40 totaled $537,100,000 while the yearly average of U. S. imports from Latin America was $552,800,000. By 1951, the value of U. S. exports to Latin America had risen to $3,744,000,000, and the value of U. S. imports from Latin America amounted to $3,346,700,000.

Technical Assistance Helps

The cooperative technical assistance program in Latin America has sought to give great numbers of people better living and working conditions and to make them more productive. This program, which blazed the trail for Point IV in other areas of the world, has been going on for 10 years. It is directed by The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, representing the United States Government.

From its beginning, this program has functioned at the grass-roots level. It was designed to help the governments and the people of the other American republics to help themselves. Its chief purpose has been to teach people how to fight disease, how to install needed sanitary facilities, how to grow more and better food, how to improve their rural elementary schools, and how to develop simple vocational skills.

The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, now Latin American Regional Office for the Technical Cooperation Administration and thus responsible for supervision of all Point IV activities in that area, began 10 years ago to work hand in hand with Latin Americans who were striving to solve their own most pressing problems.

Cooperation Is the Keynote

The Point IV program in the other American republics is truly cooperative. Projects are initiated at the request of the government of a Latin American country. These projects are based upon an agreement between the appropriate Ministry of the Latin American government and The Institute of Inter-American Affairs, representing the United States Government. This agreement clearly defines what the project includes and delineates the responsibility of each government in terms of contributions, both money and manpower.

In 1942 when the program first began, the United States furnished a major portion of the operating funds as well as most of the technical know-how. The Latin American share of the cooperative fund has increased steadily, however, until in 1951, the Latin American countries were contributing $3 for each $1 put in by the United States. The ratio of contributions runs all the way from one to one in the case of some programs in a few Latin American countries all the way up to $13 contributed by Brazil for its health and sanitation program to every $1 contributed by the United States.

On June 30, 1952, there were about 650 United States technicians working in Latin America, while more than 14,150 Latin American nationals were engaged in the program. United States technicians supervise the setting up and the operation of each project until such time as nationals of the Latin American country assume complete responsibility for it. An important part of the Point IV program in Latin America is the training of Latin American nationals to take over the operation of individual programs. In cooperation with other United States Government agencies, The Institute of Inter-American Affairs regularly makes grants to qualified Latin Americans for additional training in the United States, or elsewhere in certain cases.

Training Is Emphasized

During the first 6 months of 1952, a total of 655 training grants were approved. They were distributed among the various fields in which the program operates as follows:

For research and development in agriculture and natural resources, 195 training grants were approved in fields including agricultural mechanization, grain storage, fuel technology, entomology, fisheries administration, forestry, economic geology, agricultural statistics, rubber research irrigation, and soil conservation. The Division of Government Administration and Technical Services of the Institute approved 248 training grants during this same 6-month period. These included, among others, trainees in the fields of census taking and statistics, mapping and surveying, industrial chemistry, budget and finance, personnel management, civil aviation, highway construction, and transportation and communication. Grants in the field of rural elementary education and vocational education totaled 79. In the fields of health, welfare, and housing, 133 training grants were approved, the group including doctors, nurses, sanitary engineers, social workers, indus-

Young patient having head bandaged by Ecuadorian nurse and Kathleen Logan, former Nurse Consultant to National School of Nursing in Quito, Ecuador, and now Chief Nurse of the Washington staff.

Patients and mothers waiting their turn in the "Well baby clinic" of the Quinta Normal Health Center, Santiago, Chile, a Servicio constructed project.

trial hygienists, health educators, and laboratory technicians.

Other Government Departments Help

In administering the Point IV program in Latin America, the Institute makes full use of the technical advice and assistance of the various departments and agencies of the United States Government. In addition to the basic programs in health and sanitation, food supply, and education, which have been going on for 10 years, the Institute, with the help of technicians from 15 other agencies, now administers a program whose scope includes technical assistance in developing natural resources, housing, transportation and communication, public administration, and other basic economic activities.

For example, the Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance in all phases of agriculture.

The Department of Commerce provides technical assistance and training in civil aviation, maritime administration, statistics, highways, government weather services, testing and standards, mapping and surveying, patent office organization, and small industry development.

The Department of Labor provides technical assistance in the fields of industrial safety, labor law administration, apprenticeship training in various industries, labor-managment relations, labor standards, and workers' education. While the major portion of the Department of Labor's activities will be in training, technicians are scheduled to work in Haiti and El Salvador.

The Smithsonian Institution is cooperating with the Institute through a contract made by IIAA with the Smithsonian's Institute of Social Anthropology. The latter organization is doing research in Latin American cultural patterns in an attempt to discover better means of communication and understanding between nationals of the other Americas and United States technicians.

The Department of the Interior is directly concerned in the Institute's training program through arrangements made for sending Latin Americans representing many fields to Puerto Rico for training. It is also assisting in the fields of geology, minerology, hydroelectric power, sources of water supply, reclamation, and land management.

Through the Office of International Relations of the Federal Security Agency, the Institute deals with the Social Security Administration, the Public Health Service, and the Office of Education. These agencies assist in the technical phases of health, sanitation, social and child welfare, vital statistics, vocational rehabilitation, and general and vocational education.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency is concerned with the Institute's program in the fields of housing design and construction, building materials production and use, town planning, and community organization. It assists with trainees in these fields.

The Bureau of the Budget handles the trainees in Public Administration. Included in this general category is training in such fields as fiscal and personnel administration.

The Servicio Is the Operating Tool

The operating agency that plans and administers the various Latin American technical assistance projects in the several fields in which the program functions is called a Servicio.

The Servicio is organized as an integral part of the appropriate Ministry in the government of the Latin American country and is substantially similar to a bureau in one of the departments of the government of the United States. The Director of the Servicio is usually the Chief of Field Party sent by The Institute of Inter-American Affairs to that particular country to represent the United States in the cooperative program. He serves simultaneously in two capacities. He is Director of the Servicio, answerable to the Minister of the Latin American country, and also Chief of Field Party, answerable to the American Ambassador and to the Institute. Some of his staff members and the technicians working with him are United States citi-

zens; the others are nationals of the Latin American country.

The cooperative technical assistance program in Latin America began in 1942 under Nelson Rockefeller, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. At that time the United States was desperately in need of strategic materials which were necessary to protect free peoples of the Western Hemisphere, but which had been cut off by enemy action in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. The one remaining source of some of them was in the countries of Central and South America. These countries in turn realized that they needed financial help and technical know-how in order to improve the health and productivity of their people, develop their natural resources, and raise their standard of living.

Immunization to protect cattle from disease is a major function of the servicio agricultural program.

Purebred zebu cattle were introduced to Peru from the United States by SCIPA, to form the nucleus of a breeding herd at the jungle demonstration ranch near Pucallpa.

Program Concentrates on Basic Essentials

In its work in Latin America during the past ten years, the Institute has concentrated on the basic essentials. This has meant, in the case of the health and sanitation program, emphasis on providing safe water systems and adequate sewage disposal systems; construction and equipping of hospitals and health centers; control of specific diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, yaws, and the dysenteries; environmental sanitation; health education, registration of vital statistics, and the training of medical, engineering, and nursing personnel. The education program has confined itself chiefly to elementary education, vocational training, and teacher training. The agricultural program has concentrated on the development of an adequate food supply; the introduction of better plant and animal varieties; soil and water conservation; agricultural extension work; the introduction of better tools and methods of cultivation; the organization of basic agricultural statistics; training in better nutrition, and personnel training.

Within the Latin American countries, 80% of the population is dependent on farming or cattle raising for a livelihood. Farmers often cannot produce food enough for themselves and their families, much less a surplus for their neighbors or for export. Thus in spite of the fact that Latin America has long been a supplier of foods such as sugar, meat, and coffee to world markets, hunger has been a common condition of a large share even of the agricultural population.

Million Farmers Benefit

Through the agricultural extension work carried on by the Servicios, probably a million farmers have learned to improve their farming practices and increase their yields, thus improving their own standards of living. Furthermore, through work in which the Institute cooperates, thousands of extension workers and other agriculturists have been trained to carry on such work.

The program of the Agricultural Servicio in Paraguay is a good example of the work being done in all countries in which an agricultural program is functioning. In Paraguay, prior to 1947, there was neither a commercial nor a governmental source of seeds. Each year the best crops were sold and only poor varieties were saved for seed. Thus yields and the quality of crops deteriorated year by year. The Servicio had demonstrated on a small scale the difference selected seed and better methods of cultivation would make. In 1947, a seed testing and distributing agency was set up in the agricultural Servicio. That year almost 50,000 pounds of fresh, vigorous seeds were made available for sale to Paraguayan farmers. The demand grew so fast that by 1951 more than 1,650,000 pounds, including 87 varieties of major crop seeds, were bought by more than 10,000 farmers.

In 1942, not a single cow was bred specifically for milk production in Paraguay. The scarcity and the high cost of milk made it prohibitive in the diet of infants, invalids, and the aged. One of the first projects of the agricultural Servicio was to establish a model dairy and a pasturization plant. Holstein cows were imported and cross-bred with native stock that would be immune to certain local cattle diseases. The result has been a milk cow that yields a high ratio of milk and butter fat, while at the same time being more resistant to heat and disease. This program was watched with such

Fifty-seven bed Hospital at Santarém in the Amazon Valley.

Farmer and wife, proud owners of U. S. tractor bought through aid of supervised farm credit and paid for with earnings from his newly-settled farm in the Missiones Colony, southeastern Paraguay.

interest by the Paraguayans that it has resulted in nationwide improvement in breeding and feeding practices and in greatly increased production of milk and meat.

In order to encourage better feeding of cattle, the Servicio in Paraguay set up a plant for manufacturing mixed feed. More than 1,000 tons of balanced dairy feed and prepared concentrates were manufactured and sold to dairymen at cost. The demand for the feed became so great that the Servicio-operated mill could not supply it. In order to attract local businessmen to take over the venture, the Servicio raised the price to a point that a profit could be made. In spite of the rise in price, the demand remained such that two Paraguayan businessmen set up facilities for making the feed. Now the two commercial mixing plants are using the Servicio formulas to manufacture the feed and are making a success of their businesses.

A resettlement program in Paraguay, which may eventually affect 100,000 families, is attracting much attention. The Government of Paraguay is financing the program and the cooperative Servicio is providing the technical assistance. The pilot colony began several years ago with 57 picked families. Later, a new and larger colony, building on the experience of the first, resettled 570 penniless farmers. These families were provided a proportionate share of 78,000 acres of land; loaned enough money to build a home and buy implements, livestock, seed, and fertilizer; and given adequate time to pay off their loans. Similar agricultural development programs are being carried on through Servicios in Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Chile, and Uruguay.

In subsistance farming, harvest time is feast time; the rest of the year is hungry time. In Nicaragua, a Servicio-built storage plant will help to reduce spoilage of corn and beans that annually ran from 20 to 30% of the total crop. A grain storage and refrigeration plant in Costa Rica, built entirely with Costa Rican funds on the advice of Servicio technicians, is preserving grain and also meat and other perishables. In Paraguay, underground storage plants have proved so satisfactory that the same kind of plants are being built experimentally in the State of Kansas.

Health and Sanitation Measures Cut Death Rates

Normal life expectancy in Latin America is less than 45 years. Probably as many as 85% of the people are affected by intestinal disease, and one in every ten of the rural population suffers from malaria. More than half of all deaths are caused by diseases that are preventable through vaccination, better sanitation, and ordinary medical precautions.

The health and sanitation program in the Amazon River Valley of Brazil illustrates how this type program operates. The work there has concentrated on reducing malaria as well as typhoid and other water-borne diseases. As a result of the cooperative effort, these diseases have been virtually eliminated, not only from the Amazon Valley but also from the Rio Doce Valley.

In the Amazon Valley, 56 health centers and their subposts minister to 2,000,000 people scattered over an area nearly as large as that covered by all the United States west of the Mississippi. At first, 40 United States technicians worked with 500 Brazilians on this program. Today, not a single United States technician is in the Amazon Valley, the work being carried on by more than 1,000 Brazilians.

Cameta, a jungle village in the Amazon Valley, once had an annual death rate of 200 out of every 1,000 persons. The cooperative health Servicio opened a health center in 1945, dug a well to give the town a pure water supply, and dispensed health education. In the first 4 years, the death rate dropped to 70 per 1,000.

Education Concentrates on Essentials

In many Latin American countries, few pupils receive schooling beyond the fourth grade; in some countries the majority of children complete only one or two grades. Rural school buildings are often adobe huts with no windows; there is an inadequate supply of teachers, many of whom not only lack training for teaching but themselves have completed not more than 6 years of elementary school; and even the most necessary materials such as paper and pencils are lacking.

The cooperative Education program in Bolivia, for example, has assisted in revising the curricula of rural elementary schools in order to provide instruction not only

in the three R's but also in improved methods of agriculture through the use of school clubs and school gardens; in personal and home hygiene, home-life improvement, and simple manual skills. Teaching methods are being improved and new teaching materials are being prepared. The rural normal schools are already training teachers under the program. The Servicio is operating a system of 12 **nucleos** under which each nucleo school administers and supervises some 20 other schools in its area. The Bolivian nucleo system has proved so successful that similar systems have been introduced in Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

The cooperative education program in Brazil has been designed to meet that nation's need for trained workers and technicians. Attention has been given to revising trade school courses to meet actual local needs for workers; to revamping teaching methods, based on job analyses and a proper balance between theory and shop; to developing suitable textbooks and other teaching materials; to introducing up-to-date systems of industrial surveys and vocational guidance; and to improving shop layout and equipment.

Governments Receive Help in Administration

Some Latin American countries have requested Point IV technical assistance in public administration. The Institute, with the help of other United States government agencies, has already made available to several of these countries specialists in public administration and government services.

The importance of this help can be demonstrated with a few concrete examples. Assistance in civil aviation is necessary because aviation is sometimes the only means of connecting the outlying sections with the country's capital, which is usually the economic heart of the nation; materials testing and standards are vital to industry and consumers; accurate weather information affects the efficiency of individuals and industries; census figures and economic statistics furnish the base for economic development and trade. Other necessary services are provided in communications, customs, labor, mapping and surveying, railroads, roads, tariffs, taxes, and water transportation.

Increased industrial production and improved operation of small and medium size businesses are being encouraged by establishing productivity centers. These are "know-how" centers to which the management of smaller industries can go for information and advice on operating practices. Through the efforts of these centers, it is expected that employment opportunities will increase, more goods will be available for use within the country, and standards of living will rise.

John T. Matthews, industrial survey specialist and Antonio Carlos Barbosa, Brazilian technician, working out details of survey designed to expand industrial education program with a view to increasing man power productivity.

Latin American Program Praised by President Truman

The cooperative technical assistance program in Latin America is a 10-year proof of what can be accomplished by friendly neighboring nations to meet their common problems. It is the kind of cooperative effort President Truman was thinking of when he issued his challenge for Point IV. In commenting on the 10-year anniversary of the work in Latin America, the President said:

"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 Institute undertakes its constructive work only at the invitation and with the participation of the countries concerned. Two-way cooperation is the reason for the Institute's success. Through the Institute our country works with the other American republics as self-respecting nations, on an independent but cooperative basis.

"Over the past decade, the Institute's cooperative programs have touched directly or indirectly the lives of millions of people in Latin America on the farms, in the small towns, and in the big cities. Malaria and other dread diseases are being conquered. The capital of a leading Latin American country for the first time now has a safe system of water supply and sewage. Another nation is diversifying its basic agriculture in the first major program to change an uneconomic one-crop pattern established centuries ago.

"In the Andes region, industrial safety experts provided by the Institute are serving as advisors on safety methods in mining. In the vast Amazon River Valley, health centers established with the help of the Institute and staffed by doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians, are wiping out diseases and providing preventive medical services for jungle dwellers who never before had medical attention.

"These and other technical assistance projects are a notable contribution to the unity of the hemisphere and to its common determination to prove that the way of freedom is better than the way of communism."

The Servicio de Samillas, STICA's seed producing agency in Paraguay, went all out to give the public one of the most interesting exhibits at a farmer's fair. All phases of seed production and distribution were clearly presented using almost every means of visual aid.

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