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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Limited Official Use

Wednesday - April 10, 1968 -- 3:40 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Punta del Este Anniversary Messages to Latin American Presidents

On April 3 you agreed to send messages on the OAS Summit anniversary (April 14) to your Latin American colleagues who were at Punta del Este reviewing the progress made on the Summit Action Program and the advances in their respective countries under the Alliance for Progress.

State has prepared almost identical messages to each chief of state (except Ecuador because Arosemena did not sign up, Haiti because Duvalier did not attend, and Panama where we still have two governments) with a tailor-made paragraph on their national accomplishments. I enclose, as a sample, the message to Brazilian President Costa e Silva.

Rather than have you go through all of these basically similar messages, I recommend you approve the sample and authorize me to okay the remainder after careful review of the national accomplishments paragraph.

W. Rostow

4/11/68 - Mr. Bunker notified. re

Approve sample message and authorize okaying the others

Prefer to see each one

Call me

Much Much Much

Attachment - Sample message (Brazil).

too long -
Delete 50% minimum

Limited Official Use Proposed Presidential Message
to
Brazilian President Costa e Silva

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Dear Mr. President:

One year has passed since we met in Punta del Este to discuss with the other American Presidents and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago what we could do to intensify our common efforts under the Alliance for Progress and move more quickly toward our goal of bringing a better, more productive life to all peoples of our Hemisphere. Throughout the past year, we have often been reminded that great achievements can only come from great effort, mutual respect and understanding, and the workings of that most valuable dimension -- time. On this first anniversary of our meeting, I believe that we have made an auspicious beginning in carrying out our pledge to accelerate development efforts in the Hemisphere. By moving immediately to turn words into deeds, our peoples have again demonstrated their confidence that we can achieve our goals as long as we continue to work together.

The Inter-American Cultural Council has prepared a regional plan, and pledged financial support, to modernize teaching methods and to harness modern science and technology to our hemispheric

development efforts. We have signed a new and stronger International Coffee Agreement; established a Coffee Diversification Fund; and founded the Inter-American Export Promotion Center to stabilize and increase Latin America's earnings from foreign trade. The six per cent increase in food production during 1967 is an important first step toward making Latin American farms produce the abundance of which they are capable. We have increased the resources of the Inter-American Development Bank by \$400 million and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration by \$35 million to enable those institutions to help finance the construction of vast transportation, power and communications networks, which we agreed were vital to prepare the way for economic integration. In 1967 alone, the Inter-American Development Bank extended almost half a billion dollars in loans, by far the greatest total since its inception. You and your colleagues in the Central American Common Market and the Latin American Free Trade Association, among other actions, have established a consultative group as a first step toward the ultimate merger of your trading areas into the Latin American Common Market.

In the amendments to the Charter of the Organization of American States, signed at Buenos Aires in February of last year, we have already provided for a strengthening of the structure of our regional Organization so it may more fully serve the great goals of the Alliance for Progress. The United States is now completing its procedures for the ratification of these amendments. Meanwhile, we can note with pleasure the significant strengthening of the Inter-American Cultural Council, in the spirit of the Charter amendments.

I congratulate you and all Brazilians on the further development work you have done in your own country since our meeting at Punta del Este. Your progress in recent months in the continuing battle against inflation is especially encouraging. I am also pleased to see evidence of resumed economic growth in Brazil over the past year. Let me join you in the hope that Brazil will continue to show further progress on both fronts during 1968. Your actions in the field of agriculture to expand the price support program and provide more adequate credit facilities have given a real stimulus to increased Brazilian production of basic foodstuffs, and your courageous program to reduce government operating costs should make further resources available

for agriculture and for other critical sectors such as education. I am also happy to note the measures you have taken to increase exports of Brazilian manufactured products and the rapid growth of your exports this past year.

Through these and other actions, we have begun the great task set for our nations in the Action Program adopted at Punta del Este last year. The advances we have already made have shown the world once again that Americans know how to work together in peace.

On behalf of the people of the United States, I reaffirm our unwavering resolve to support your continuing efforts and wish you and your people well during the increasingly active and challenging years ahead.

Lyndon B. Johnson

His Excellency

Arthur da Costa e Silva

President of the Republic of Brazil

Brasilia.