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EXECUTIVE

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December 19, 1963

Dear Adolf:

THOMAS

Thank you indeed for your letter of December 16. I was particularly delighted with your opinion of Tom Mann. I think he can do the job, if anyone can and I propose to give him the tools that are necessary. I quite agree with your estimate of the four trouble spots in Central and South America and sometimes wonder if we can do the job. But, of course, we have to.

Possibly you are right that Mann will eventually need the title of Undersecretary to accomplish the necessary. I am aware of the problem you foresee and, as you will have noticed since you wrote to me, he has been made Special Assistant to the President to emphasize his control. This avoids some immediate Congressional problems in creating the post of Undersecretary. In the end, we may have to follow your suggestion.

As soon as I have a feeling I am caught up with all the immediate problems, I want you to come down and spend some time with me going over the problems of the whole hemisphere. I need your counsel and your guidance, and I am touched that you have offered to make them available to me.

Sincerely,

*Lyndon B. Johnson*  
LYNDON

Mr. Adolf A. Berle  
70 Pine Street  
New York 5, New York

RECEIVED  
JAN 2 1964  
CENTRAL FILES

cc to:  
Mr. James Rowe  
1511 K Street, NW.  
Washington 5, D. C.

Not sent  
to files  
1/4/63

LRJ:James Rowe: rem

(sent 12/21/63)



December 15, 1963

*T. THOMAS*  
Dear Ambassador Mann:

I want you to know how gratified I am by your response to my request that you leave your important position in Mexico and come home to take up the tasks we have discussed.

I have asked you, in addition to your duties as Assistant Secretary, to undertake the coordination and direction of all policies and programs of the United States government, economic, social and cultural, relating to Latin America. There can be no illusion that the work will be easy. But, as I told you, next to keeping the peace -- and maintaining the strength and vitality which makes freedom secure -- no work is more important for our generation of Americans than our work in this hemisphere.

I am sure you share my pride in the accomplishments to date; my deep gratitude to the loyal and dedicated United States officials -- and to officials of other governments in the hemisphere -- who have made this possible; and to the Congress for its vision in authorizing and financing the Alliance for Progress program.

I know that you share my determination to press to full realization the visions of President Roosevelt and President Kennedy of an American community of Nations moving forward together in progress and freedom.



The Alliance for Progress is a partnership in which each free American republic has a part to play together. We must find ways to expand education, health, and low-cost housing facilities; we must find ways to help governments increase revenues by tax reforms and, at the same time, maintain an adequate and sustained rate of economic growth; we must find ways to bring about land reform and, at the same time, to increase agricultural production. Job opportunities must be expanded and educational and health facilities and low-cost housing must be provided. Social justice is a goal for which we must constantly strive.

All of the American nations must market their resources and devote themselves to finding ways to bring the strength of those resources to the task at hand.

I want you to work closely with private United States groups and institutions carrying out activities in Latin America. These include, but are not limited to, the AFL-CIO, religious and charitable groups, cooperatives and the private business sector, which can make the significant contribution envisaged in the Punta del Este Charter.

You will find many outstanding public servants throughout our Government who will help you in your difficult task. You can count on my intense interest and complete support.

Sincerely,

Honorable Thomas Mann  
United States Ambassador  
Mexico City, Mexico

LBJ:rgm