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PRESS CONFERENCE

OF

LINCOLN GORDON, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
SOL MYRON LINOWITZ,
AMBASSADOR, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED STATES ON THE COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Driskill Hotel
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11:35 AM CST
Austin, Texas

MR. GORDON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Lincoln Gordon, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. Ambassador Sol M. Linowitz, our new Ambassador to the OAS, and the U. S. Representative on CIAP, and I have just completed two parallel trips.

We were both with the President in Texas a little over two weeks ago on the occasion of the meeting with President Diaz Ordaz at the Amistad Dam.

The President commissioned the two of us to visit the principal countries of South America to explore the attitudes of presidents, foreign ministers, finance ministers, and others concerned about the desirability, the timing, the content of the proposed Inter-American Summit Meeting.

We got back together from Mexico late yesterday afternoon, in San Antonio, and later we went to the ranch. We talked with the President last night and this morning for a total of five hours, with a very thorough discussion of the attitudes of these principal governments in Latin America, the prospects for the Summit, the situation in various countries, how it looks today compared with the way it looked a few years back.

I think I can say that we came back, both of us, feeling very bullish.

Ambassador Linowitz had gone first to Montevideo where there was a meeting going on of the ten foreign ministers of the Latin American Free Trade Area. He had a chance to lunch and to talk one afternoon with them.

I had gone to Europe first to fulfill a longstanding commitment. We met together in Buenos Aires for about an hour on Tuesday afternoon. Then he went up the west coast.

He had also been in Paraguay.

He then went up the west coast to Chile, Peru, Colombia, and I went up the east coast to Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela.

He met me in Panama where my plane was stopping for refueling. We had about three hours to compare notes on the way to Mexico.

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We did the Mexican part of the trip together.

We found unanimity on the part of all of the presidents and foreign ministers that we talked with, that the idea of an Inter-American Summit Meeting soon -- and the probable date is in April although the formal decision has yet to be made -- was a good idea, that it was timely, that it offered the opportunity for a really constructive forward movement in Inter-American cooperation, along the two lines that had been discussed several months ago: Strengthening the Alliance for Progress and pushing forward the movement for Latin American economic integration.

We spoke last, of course, with President Diaz Ordaz of Mexico, yesterday just before leaving for Texas. We found the same viewpoint there.

We reported this to President Johnson last night. He was very pleased. He agrees that this is a great opportunity.

I think we can now say that the Summit Meeting will take place with that kind of agenda.

There is unanimous agreement that it is to be a short agenda; that it should concentrate on concrete, positive points; that it should deal with the things on which we can all move forward together and not with problems -- and there are some problems -- in the Hemisphere of bilateral tensions and frictions; that it should deal with the positive points on which they all want to move forward together and on which, in fact, a lot of progress has been made in the last five years.

What are some of these points?

Economic integration is talked about a lot. Five years ago that was just a dream in Latin America. Today there is a Central American Common Market which is a going concern.

Ambassador Linowitz about three and a half weeks ago met in Costa Rica with the five foreign ministers of Central America, plus the Foreign Minister of Panama.

Also, between us, we have covered the opinions of almost every country in the Hemisphere.

They have a Central American Common Market as a going concern. The Latin American Free Trade Area, which includes all of the countries of South America except Bolivia -- and Bolivia has indicated that it wants to join, plus Mexico -- is moving more slowly, but, nonetheless, in the five years that it has been going, it has doubled the volume of trade among the countries, those countries, from about \$750 million per year to \$1.5 billion.

Q What has it doubled?

MR. GORDON: It has doubled the trade among the member countries of the Latin American Free Trade Area.

Q Over what period of time?

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MR. GORDON: From 1961 to 1965, from \$750 million to \$1.5 billion.

Q Sir, did you say that all the countries in Latin America are members except Bolivia?

MR. GORDON: All the countries of South America except Bolivia, and Bolivia has announced that it wants to join. So it will be all of the countries of South America, plus Mexico.

They have a lot further to go, but they want to carry this movement forward. We are supporting it strongly. Discussion and some decisions, I believe, on how to move it forward faster and better will be an important part of the Summit Meeting.

One field which is very clear is the need for a physical basis for integration because these countries traditionally have not traded much with each other. Their communications are bad. Their transportation is poor. What we are calling multinational projects -- roads, telecommunications, electric power connections, river basin developments, and the joint development of certain industries like fertilizer and some others, basic industries where the national markets are too small -- is the kind of forward movement that they have in mind and we have in mind.

We hope the Inter-American Bank, which is working well, will be a major instrument to push this forward.

Concentration on more rapid progress in agriculture is the second item. Everybody realizes that the world food problem is a major one. Latin America has not been raising its food production as rapidly as the population. It can, and it can also generate a large surplus for export. That requires a lot of hard work in national programs. It requires international cooperation. We expect to move forward on that front.

Education, especially scientific and technical education, to provide a basis to bring this continent really into the second half of the 20th Century; national programs, high school level, university level, broadening primary education also, and international cooperation.

One specific project which everybody looks well on is the idea of multi-national post graduate level institutes of science and technology, two or three of them, each serving a number of Latin American countries, backed by a group of high quality American institutions in this field, designed to trade professors, to engage in research projects, to help reverse the brain drain so that Latin America will have a place where its really brilliant scientific talent can work and be developed, and to tie in with their undergraduate engineering and science institutions so as to have a really indigenous Latin American scientific and technical group.

A lot has been said in the press about the question of wasteful expenditures on prestige arms. I have remarked publicly that what is going on in Latin America today, mainly South America, is not an arms race. At the most it is an

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arms walk, and I think maybe it could be called an arms crawl. That is what you do before you walk.

But there is a danger that rivalry for prestige among the armed forces of some of these countries might convert this into an arms race.

We found that the countries involved are conscious of this danger and they would like to develop some kind of agreement among them to avoid it because they know that limited government resources are badly needed for economic and social development.

Q In what countries?

MR. GORDON: The principal South American countries which have been recipients of US military assistance are six: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela.

Q Do I understand this is part of the agenda for this Summit Meeting?

MR. GORDON: The agenda has not yet been specifically formally determined.

I might say a word on the steps in preparation. The formal steps are these:

A preparatory committee representing all 20 governments has been established in Washington. They commissioned nine senior Latin American international experts to make a preliminary report and set of proposals to them. That group met early in December and is meeting again December 27-29.

Their report is expected early in January.

Then this preparatory committee will get to work and will review this document. They will, of course, report back to the various governments.

The next formal step will be a meeting in Washington which is theoretically of foreign ministers but actually represented by their OAS ambassadors, to make the formal decision on the dates and place of the Summit Meeting.

This will be followed probably in mid-February, although the date is not yet firm, by an actual meeting of foreign ministers in Buenos Aires for two purposes.

The first will be to sign up on the series of amendments to the OAS Charter which were agreed as a result of the Rio de Janeiro Conference in November last year.

The second purpose will be to continue the discussion of the agenda and the preparations for the presidential meeting.

So that is what is going on on that front.

Before we open to questions, I would like to make one comment to avoid any misunderstanding about what I said on arms. I do not want to suggest -- because it is not so --

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that the six nations that I mentioned, because they are getting arms from the United States, are presently engaged in international arms rivalry.

I said before that it was a crawl and not a race.

The arms we are providing are mainly for internal security purposes. As you know, although the threat of violent insurgency today in Latin America is far less than it was five years ago, nonetheless it is a continuing threat and this is a serious problem.

In addition, several of the countries have engaged in international peace-keeping missions for the United Nations, or in the Dominican Republic case for the OAS.

I presume that in an uncertain world it is perfectly possible that they may be called upon again in the future to engage in international peace-keeping missions. But they do not want to fight with one another. In fact, there have been no serious bilateral fighting conflicts between Latin American countries since 1942, and the spirit in the continent is to keep it that way.

I started to say that before opening this to questions I would like very much to turn the microphone over to Ambassador Linowitz for his observations and reflections on the trip as a whole, and on the countries which he visited and I did not.

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: Ladies and gentlemen, unlike Linc Gordon, I approached my part of this trip unencumbered by too much expertise. I think I represent a new type of American ambassador who gets trained by being pushed into the water and being told to swim.

On the other hand, I always remember Yogi Berra, who said it is amazing how much you could observe just by watching.

I found that was true on this trip.

Three weeks ago I had gone to Central America in order to meet with the foreign ministers of Central America and of Panama. The object there was, as Secretary Gordon has indicated, to elicit from them their suggestions with reference to a proposed presidential conference.

On this trip I might perhaps convey to you a few of my personal impressions as I tried to do to the President last night and this morning.

The Foreign Ministers Conference in Montevideo, which I attended, was an opportunity for me personally to meet with these ministers and to talk with them prior to my subsequent meeting with various presidents about their own views with respect to the feasibility and the desirability of the conference.

I met with President Gestido, of Uruguay. I then went to Paraguay for a day where I met with President Stroessner.

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From there as Linc said, we met in Biai for a couple of hours, and I flew to Santiago where I met with President Frei; from there to Lima, where I met with President Belaunde, and then to Bogota where I met with President Carlos Lleras, until we both got together in Mexico for the meeting with President Diaz Ordaz.

For whatever it is worth, I think the most impressive things in terms of my own experience were these:

First, I was immensely gratified at the universal feeling of goodwill toward the United States. Everywhere I went I found a true and a deep desire to cooperate with the United States in this Hemisphere and to work in order to achieve common objectives.

Secondly, I was tremendously impressed with the aspirations advanced by these newer leaders of the South American countries with reference to their own destinies.

I thought it was most heartening to have them consistently say that they were in accord with our basic United States objectives in this Hemisphere and hoped that we could work ever more closely together toward their achievement. Particularly in the areas of advance in food and education, which Secretary Gordon has mentioned, there was an opportunity to see the impact in terms of people.

For example, in Santiago, I met with a group of university students, and also had a chance to visit some of the housing projects to see for myself some of the things that were going on.

My impression is, thirdly, that there is, today, more democracy and more hope on this continent than has existed for many years, and it is out of this sense of democracy and this spirit of hope that there arises this genuine desire for a successful Summit conference.

I would summarize by saying, as I did to the President, that based on the assurances given to us by these leaders in these various South American countries, based on the specific objectives which they are prepared to undertake in conjunction with us, there is every reason to look forward with hope and with confidence to a successful meeting of the presidents to give a new thrust forward to the things we are trying to do together in this Hemisphere.

Q Mr. Secretary, looking over my notes on the subject of population control, I don't think that was covered by what you said. Does this mean this will not be on the agenda?

MR. GORDON: No, the subject has not been submitted by anybody to figure on the agenda for a meeting of presidents. Recognition of the problems posed by rapid population increase in Latin America has been spreading, and during the last two or three years a few countries have instituted official programs of their public health services designed to assist in family planning programs.

In some other countries similar work is being done, but on a private basis without official governmental sponsorship.

This is a matter, of course, in which political, religious and personal considerations are deeply involved, and in which each people and each government has to make up its own mind as to what it ought to do in its own way.

We have made clear that for those who want to work positively in this field we are prepared to assist and, in fact, we are assisting in a substantial number of countries either the governmental or the private programs of that type.

Q Mr. Secretary, is Lima, Peru, the likely place, and is April the likely date? And what time in April?

MR. GORDON: The likely date is April. I think probably about the middle of the month.

Q Where?

MR. GORDON: I was coming to the question of site. Not in Biai. Four sites have been offered by their respective governments. They are Vina del Mar, Chile. That is a seaside resort adjacent to Valparaiso, which is the principal port of Chile. And Lima, the capital of Peru; Punta del Este, which is a seaside resort in Uruguay, and which was the site, as you recall, of the meeting in August 1961 where the Alliance for Progress was launched on an Inter-American basis. And San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica.

The question of which of these four sites is the best from the point of view of securing universal attendance and having adequate facilities is still under active discussion, and I believe will be resolved satisfactorily during the month of January.

Q Mr. Secretary, for those of us who are not daily Latin American watchers, would you tell us what is new about what you propose this morning? That is, hadn't an agreement been reached before that there would be, in fact, a Summit meeting, and that President Johnson would attend? Is it the date and the likely points of discussion that are new, or had those been previously agreed upon by the preparatory committee?

MR. GORDON: No, what had been agreed at an informal meeting in New York at the end of September of the foreign ministers, during the General Assembly meeting of the UN, was that this looked like a good idea, that the preparations for it should be set in motion -- and that is where all this formal preparatory machinery that I mentioned came from -- and that a decision should be made in due course whether and when to proceed.

These consultations which were with the top authorities of the principal governments were designed to review what had been done since the end of September, that is almost three months ago, and to see whether now the prospects for

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a positive, constructive, useful, successful meeting were such that we could move from a provisional decision to a formal, positive decision.

Q Mr. Secretary, this is the nearest thing to a formal announcement that the conference will be held, is that right?

MR. GORDON: I, of course, cannot make a formal announcement that it will be held because a formal announcement must be made by the OAS machinery.

It is quite clear that the prospects that that formal decision will be taken positively have tremendously long odds. It isn't a formal decision, but I would describe it as as close to a certainty as informal consultations can make it.

Q Mr. Secretary, is your mention of April the first publ mention of that time?

MR. GORDON: Let me just answer that and then Mr. Linowitz wants to say a word.

I have, myself, on a number of occasions, mentioned April as a probable date. We found on this trip that everybody seemed to feel that that was the desirable date.

MR. LINOWITZ: Could I just add a word in response to the question as to what is new about what we are saying today?

On this trip we consistently made clear to the presidents and the other leaders of Latin American countries that it was up to them to decide whether the conference should be held, and that the United States would cooperate if that was their decision and if that was the clear request they had to make of us, to convey back to President Johnson.

The unanimity of this feeling on the part of the South American countries, their willingness to make commitments in order to achieve the objectives that Secretary Gordon described, and the enthusiasm with which they look forward to this conference, together, are the reasons why we are able to say today that the conference will undoubtedly be held.

Q Will this be every nation, except Cuba, in Central America and Latin America?

MR. LINOWITZ: We are hopeful for every nation, except Cuba.

Q Would that be 20?

MR. LINOWITZ: Tha would be 20.

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Q In connection with the genesis of this Summit meeting, is my recollection correct that the idea was first advanced last spring by the President of Argentina?

MR. GORDON: The idea was first advanced last March 31st, by the then President of Argentina, President Lillia, who was subsequently deposed.

Q And President Johnson endorsed it, I believe, in Mexico City in April?

MR. GORDON: President Johnson endorsed the idea in Mexico City in his speech in mid-April. Both before and after that endorsement, of course, there had been quite a lot of behind-the-scene discussion, and since then there has been this progressive evolution of the idea.

Q There was no answer to Mr. Cormier's question about whether or not the arms question had been eliminated from the agenda.

MR. GORDON: I am sorry. I didn't hear that question. If I did, I didn't understand it.

Q I wondered if in discussing it here you were implying that that would be one of the major items of discussion.

MR. GORDON: The formal agenda still has to be determined. I believe that in one way or another the question of avoiding wasteful expenditures on prestige arms will figure in the meeting. I doubt whether it would be a specific agenda item. That is the only point. But the subject matter, yes.

Q What do you mean by prestige arms?

MR. GORDON: I mean by prestige arms very expensive, very rapid aircraft, very large Naval vessels, missiles, heavy tanks, things of that kind.

Q I wonder if I could ask Mr. Linowitz a question.

I am not trying to be argumentative on this but I am confused. You said that your impression is that there is more Democracy on this continent than has existed for many years. We have had relatively recent military takeovers in Brazil and Argentina, and Paraguay is not one of the most democratic countries in the world. I am wondering how you reconcile that with this hope that you mention.

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: Based on the countries I visited and the discussions I personally had, I am convinced that that is an accurate statement, that the spirit of Democracy in the continent as a whole is greater and more powerful today than it has been for some time. Admittedly there are some new military governments, a few new military governments. But what is gratifying is that there seems to be a genuine desire, even on the part of those governments, to move increasingly towards more democratic governments.

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MR. GORDON: I would like to supplement that, if I may. In the case of Brazil there had been, a month ago, a congressional election with one senator from each state and all of the deputies, the congressmen, a real election. A new constitution was under debate in the congress while we were in Brazilia last week, which is basically a democratic constitution, and it is expected that some of the unusual emergency powers which the regime has exercised since 1964 revolution will die with the inauguration of the new President-elect on March 15, 1967.

Q You don't feel that the Argentina situation offsets this?

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: I have no comment on that at this time.

Q Would it be fair to say that the agenda for the Summit meeting at this point looks like it will be restricted to three subjects, economic integration, agricultural development, and educational matters?

MR. GORDON: No. You see, there has been an agreement on these two broad themes of strengthening the Alliance for Progress on the one hand, and accelerating economic integration on the other. Exactly what sub-themes will be developed to fit under those two topics we won't know for a couple of months. This is still under discussion. But I think that the three that you mentioned will clearly be part of it, and I imagine there will be some others.

Q Doesn't all of this sound pretty much like an old record? Wasn't this the heart of the Alliance when it was launched in 1961? We have been talking about these problems for the last 10 years.

MR. GORDON: No. With respect to integration, although there was some very minor discussion of it at Punta del Este five years ago, making it a major topic for forward movement in the continent is something that has been evolving gradually, and today is completely different. It has taken a real quantum jump, as the physicists say, just in the last year or two, as a central focus of discussion and action. This idea of multinational projects began to be thought about a year ago, and now under the leadership of the Inter-American Bank has become one of the key centers for cooperative action.

Q Wasn't the Central American common market a key item of discussion at the San Jose Summit Conference?

MR. GORDON: Yes, that is right, and it has made great headway. That was five countries, but rather small countries. Now we are talking about a movement, the ultimate goal of which is a Latin American common market, including 19 countries.

Q Mr. Gordon, there are some students of South America who believe that a favorable food and population balance will not be achieved until some sort of crash effort is undertaken, partly with U.S. assistance, to develop the interior of the continent. Will that be discussed at this meeting?

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MR. GORDON: That is one of the precise purposes of the idea of these multi-national projects, to help develop, to help open up what Walter Lippman called the "Inner Frontiers of South America", and indeed, even some areas of Central America, small as it is, which are not now used at all, or not very productively used. This is exactly one of the objects. You think of such areas as the eastern slope of the Andes, involving Peru, Colombia, Ecuador; you think of the upper reaches of the tributaries of the River Plate, which involves five countries, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia.

I once said in a speech that those areas taken together are the largest easily developable and as yet undeveloped area on the surface of the globe.

Q Mr. Secretary, to what extent has the purchase of aircraft or arms from other countries, France perhaps, played a part in the build-up of arms in South America?

MR. GORDON: There have been no recent purchases from France. Chile made a recent purchase of some fighter planes from England. That event certainly led to a good deal of the press discussion. Those are, however, all subsonic planes. They do not involve an expansion of the Chilean air force. They are simply designed to replace a generation of planes bought, I believe, between 1950 and 1952, roughly 15 years old, which have now simply become worn out, obsolete and unusable.

Q Does Peru have pending with the United States a request for the purchase of supersonic aircraft?

MR. GORDON: I am two weeks out of date.

Q On this question of prestige arms, is it solely a matter of prestige, or are there any residual fears of neighbors or anything like that, Mr. Gordon?

MR. GORDON: I don't think that anybody seriously expects an armed attack by a neighbor.

As you know, in addition to the general commitments under the U.N. and so on, the Mutual Security Treaty of Rio, which was signed in 1947, of which we are a member, a fundamental part of the OAS system, was the path-breaking treaty. It was the precedent for NATO. It says an attack against any one of these countries shall be considered an attack against all, and that all shall help come to the defense. This is a very strong thing.

Q Mr. Secretary, did you discuss on this particular trip for the President, in the conversation last night and this morning, the possibility of the President making a tour in Latin America in connection with this meeting of presidents?

MR. GORDON: That is a question that will have to be considered for the future. I think it is not impossible. That would be premature to talk about at this time.

Q The question is: Did you discuss it?

All right, thank you.

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Q I have a question on the arms situation again. It is my impression that the United States was quite concerned that the question of arms be included on the agenda. Have we had to draw back on that concern in order to have the conference?

MR. GORDON: No. It would not be right to say that we were very concerned that this be included on the agenda. This is a subject I discussed at length in a speech of December 1 in New York. We are concerned that this latent danger of an arms race not materialize. We think it significant that this concern is shared by the governments of the countries concerned. We think that the question of how that danger can be avoided is best handled by a friendly agreement among the countries directly concerned. This seems to be the direction things are taking. If that kind of friendly agreement is then recognized at the Summit meeting, that is fine.

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: Could I just add a word perhaps?

I think just listening it seems to me you may be attributing too much significance to the phrase "on the agenda". If your precise question is: Is it likely that the subject will be discussed and play a role in the meeting, it certainly is most likely. That, I think, gets to what you have been wondering about.

While I am up, may I just come back to a question that was asked earlier, which bothers me because I wonder whether we have articulated clearly enough something that we should have. I believe the question was: Are we playing an old record, isn't this all familiar.

I think what is important to be recognized is that this present conference and this present commitment moves, as I indicated, in several conversations in South America, you might say, from the Alliance for Progress to Action for Progress; that we now know specifically how some of the words of the Alliance can be made to come alive and to become reality. We now know that there are specific things which will be undertaken so that some of that dream will be realized in actuality. This, therefore, is a critical time for realization of some of the words that may have been used before but today can be given depth, meaning, and true existence.

Secretary Gordon, of course, is absolutely right, that it is not likely that it will be on the agenda.

Q You suggested that the feeling toward America is very good these days. Is there any lingering resentment about the intervention in the Dominican Republic, and, too, is there any possibility that that would also play a part during the discussions, as birth control might?

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: Nowhere were we confronted with the Dominican intervention in a hostile and unfriendly, and inimical manner. It was rarely mentioned, and when it was it was in terms of the fact that good results were achieved without any discussion of the action which preceded it.

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On the intervention point I was personally surprised that the concern expressed seems to be more that the United States might not be involved enough in some of the things these countries want to do rather than that they will be involved too much. Time and again the officials of these countries said, "We want you to know that we expect you to play a very important and a major role in some of these things we are trying to accomplish".

Secretary Gordon said, "You don't mean military intervention, of course", and, of course, I don't.

I just wanted to make clear that point.

Did I confuse you with what I said?

Q Is it on or off the record?

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: What I just said was on the record.

Q You were not talking about military intervention?

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ: No, I wasn't. I was talking about intervention in terms of playing a role in connection with the projects slated for discussion at the Summit.

Q Secretary Gordon mentioned jet aircraft, vessels, heavy tanks and missiles as prestige arms. Have we supplied any such equipment anywhere in Latin America in the last five years?

MR. GORDON: I didn't say jet aircraft, but I really mean supersonic jets. There are subsonic jets all over Latin America.

Q Have we supplied any of these items anywhere in the last five years?

MR. GORDON: We have not supplied any vessels larger than destroyers. We have not supplied any supersonic aircraft, and there are none anywhere in Latin America, during the last five years.

We did at an earlier date supply some cruisers to several of the Navies, but that was in the 1950's. There are two aircraft carriers, both bought -- one Brazilian and one Argentinian -- from England, not supplied from us.

Q From England, did you say?

MR. GORDON: Yes. That was back around 1956 or 1957, as I recall. It may be 1958.

Q They were bought from England?

MR. GORDON: They were bought by Argentina and Brazil with their own money.

They were bought with their own money.

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Q How about heavy tanks?

MR. GORDON: I would have to check that. There have been some tanks. My recollection is not particularly heavy ones, but I would have to verify that. I don't recall offhand.

Q The question is: Do you think we have increased this problem in the last five years?

MR. GORDON: I think in the last five years, no. I think at an earlier date some of our military equipment supplies may have marginally contributed to the problem.

I would like to say one additional word on this question of old stuff or new look, just to reinforce what Ambassador Linowitz said about the action phase.

When the Alliance For Progress was launched five years ago, many of these ideas were new to many of the governments. Today, they have become the heart of governmental programs. Let me cite just one figure. We are always being asked whether the Latins are doing real self-help. One index of that is what they have done through tax reforms and better tax collections, and through incentives to private investment to mobilize more resources.

Between 1961 and 1965 there was a 25 percent increase in real terms in investments by Latin Americans. This is apart from foreign investments, either public or private. I mean the sum of public and private investment in developments by the Latin American governments and peoples in 1965 was 25 percent larger than it was in 1961. That took a lot of doing. I think it is a creditable record.

If you look at all kinds of other things -- improvements in public administration, devotion to school construction, housing, agricultural extension services, various types of reforms, improvements of capital markets -- I am never satisfied, I don't want to give the impression of complacency because more has to be done, a lot more has to be done, but the trends are very healthy.

A lot has to be done, a lot is being done, and every government in this hemisphere is working on this kind of program as its main interest in life. That is today rapid change, rapid progress, so far as possible, by democratic means.

When Mr. Linowitz said before that democracy was stronger today than before. Of course, there are exceptions, but there used to be more exceptions. The number of exceptions is fewer and the trend is in the right direction.

Q Did you encounter any real trouble spots, in terms of the countries or problems, or things just lurking around the corner that should give the Alliance serious concern?

MR. GORDON: It would be a miracle if in a continent with 19 Latin countries, and, of course, we also have responsibility in the State Department for the former British colonies now independent countries, the Commonwealth Caribbean countries, Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, and now Barbados, it would

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be a miracle if in this area there were not trouble spots. Bear in mind that the average per capita income is \$300 per year, and in the poorest of the countries it is under \$100.

On an embargo basis, for 4 p.m. Texas time, 5 p.m. Eastern time, with simultaneous release in Santiago, Chile, there will be announced a visit to Washington of President Eduardo Frei for the dates of February 1 and 2. This is not a so-called State visit, but it is an official visit. I haven't seen the announcement myself. I don't know how much it says about the program.

I understand Mr. Christian does not know either.

Q Will he confer with President Johnson and other officials?

MR. GORDON: Yes, of course.

Q When was Mr. Frei elected, Mr. Gordon, roughly?

MR. GORDON: September 1964, if I remember correctly. It is a six-year term in Chile. He is getting on into the halfway point. Or it is a five-year term.

Q Mr. Gordon, you said visits. Is this the first of several?

MR. GORDON: It is expected that there will be some others to be announced in due course.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

AT 12:43 CST