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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 8, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter Congratulating the President for
His Proposal to Establish a Task Force
on Physical Integration of Latin America
from the Chairman of the Pan American
Highway Congresses

Enclosed is a letter from the Chairman of the
Executive Committee of the Pan American Highway Congresses
(a specialized agency of the OAS) congratulating the Presi-
dent on his proposal to establish a high-level task force
on physical integration of Latin America. The letter was
transmitted to the Department May 31 by our Embassy in
Lima.

The Department recommends that the suggested reply
from Assistant Secretary Oliver, which thanks the Chairman
on behalf of the President, be approved.

agree
wab

Robert C. Fausch
for Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Suggested reply.
2. Letter from Mr. Dibos
dated May 16.

Chad W. Jensen
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Mr. Eduardo Dibos
Chairman, Permanent Executive Committee
Pan American Highway Congresses
Organization of American States
Box 1226
Lima

Dear Mr. Dibos:

President Johnson has asked that I express his appreciation for your kind letter of May 16 in which you referred to his proposal to establish a high-level task force for promotion of the physical integration of Latin America.

The development of transport, power and communications networks will be a significant step toward the economic integration and further development of Latin America. As you may know, the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at their meeting in Bogota in April, approved a resolution calling for the Bank, in conjunction with the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress (CIAP), to undertake to initiate establishment of a task force to develop a five-year plan and action program for physical integration projects in Latin America. Similarly, CIAP in its meeting early in May requested its Chairman to work with the President of the IDB in developing the outlines for the task force.

Accordingly, in view of your expressed interest, I take the liberty of suggesting that you may wish to communicate directly with President Herrera of the IDB and

Chairman Sanz de Santamaria of the CIAP to make known to them your willingness to be of service in connection with the task force. Your interest and support of this proposal are very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Covey T. Oliver
Assistant Secretary

COMITE DIRECTIVO PERMANENTE
DE LOS CONGRESOS PANAMERICANOS
DE CARRETERAS



OFICINAS DE LA PRESIDENCIA:

GERMAN SCHREIBER 296

TELEF. } 28-2-04
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DIRECCION CABLEGRAFICA:

"COPACA"

May 16, 1968

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C., U.S.A.

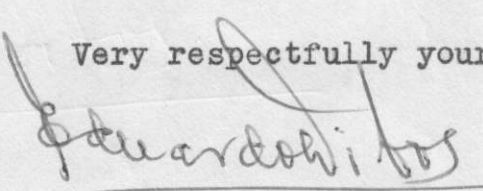
My dear Mr. President:

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the proposal which you made at a White House conference on April 23, for establishment of a high-level task force to draft a five-year program for the development of transport, power and communications networks in Latin America.

It is most gratifying to us in the American Republics to see that you have thus directed attention to one of the problems which especially concern us. As you know, the Pan American Highway Congresses (a specialized agency of the Organization of American States) have worked for many years to develop a public consciousness of the importance of road development, from both the national and international points of view. Now your timely words have focused hemispheric interest upon these matters, and suggested a procedure which should attain the desired objective.

If there is any way in which you or your advisers think that our Executive Committee could be of service in this essential task, please feel free to call upon us.

Very respectfully yours,


Eduardo Dibos, Chairman
Permanent Executive Committee
Pan American Highway Congresses

tsb



COMITE DIRECTIVO PERMANENTE
DE LOS CONGRESOS PANAMERICANOS
DE CARRETERAS

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The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.,
U. S. A.

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