

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday - April 23, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR WALT ROSTKOW

SUBJECT: Today's Latin American Ceremony

Attached is a copy of the scenario for the ceremony this morning (Tab A). It is important at the end of your talk to turn to the President and tell him that the Protocol is ready for signature. This is the cue for him to go to the table for the signing.

To the presentation we went over yesterday, I would add these elements pegged to the President's statement (draft at Tab B):

1. Refer to the President's example about having to call from Lima to Rio via Miami or New York. Then indicate that a Latin American satellite will be launched this fall. The earth stations in Chile, Panama and Mexico will be completed by then and will hook up in first satellite communication^{net} for the region. Next year earth stations in Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela will be ready for link-up. Others will follow.
2. Mention "Selma" Blvd. -- Carretera Marginal de la Selva.
3. Referring to the President's example about road travel from Brazil to Argentina, mention that some day there should be a "Route 95" running from Rio to Buenos Aires with a "Chesapeake Bay Tunnel-Bridge" across the River Plate Estuary -- the big bottleneck now -- with industries growing up along the route.
4. Emphasize that the President's proposal is for a Task Force to draw up a blueprint of what projects seem feasible and what the priorities might be. This will serve as a planning guide to governments and lending agencies. Increased resources of the Bank -- \$1.2 billion added in 1967 (\$900 million from US) -- will enable the Bank to help finance physical integration projects.

Good luck. It should be a good show.

Attachments - Tabs A and B.

WUB
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31a

A

Scenario

31b

for

Latin American Ceremony

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday - April 23, 1968

in East Room, White House

1. President makes statement.

3. President turns to Walt Rostow and asks him to elaborate on the Task Force proposal, using the maps. President takes chair reserved for him next to the maps.

3. Rostow gives 5-minute briefing. At conclusion he says to the President:

"Mr. President, the ratification of the Protocol of Amendment to the OAS Charter is ready for your signature."

4. President goes to the table and signs the instrument of ratification.

5. President returns to podium and introduces Ambassador Clark and hands him his commission.

6. Reception line in Blue Room (optional).

31c

B

Latin American Ceremony
Tuesday, April 23, 1968 - 11:30 a.m.
Words: 816 /Sparks

31d

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

Twenty years ago, our American Republics met in Bogota to charter the Organization of American States. Our goal was to consolidate peace and solidarity among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Seven years ago, we broadened and deepened our commitment. With the Alliance for Progress, we joined forces to create a social and economic revolution on these continents.

One year ago, our countries went back to Punta del Este to review our progress -- and to declare a new decade of urgency. For we found that, while we had achieved much, the basic human problems demanded new commitments.

Today, we take another step toward perfecting the OAS. The Charter amendments we ratify will streamline the political,

economic, and cultural machinery of our organization. They will enable the OAS to meet its greatly increased responsibilities -- and to meet them far more promptly and efficiently.

Despite all we have accomplished over the past two decades, no one knows better than those in this room how far we have yet to go.

As I said at Punta del Este:

"The pace of change is not fast enough. It will remain too slow -- unless you join your energies and your skills and commitments in a mighty effort that extends into the farthest reaches of this hemisphere.

"The time is now. The responsibility is ours."

The Punta del Este program approved a year ago rests on three main pillars: more food, better education, and closer economic integration. I am encouraged by the beginnings:

Latin American Ceremony

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- Last year Latin American farms produced food at twice the rate of new mouths to feed.
- Since Punta del Este funds for education have increased 6 percent, ^{sub} ~~to~~ \$2 billion.
- The hemisphere's top scientists and educators have agreed on a \$25 million joint program to supplement national efforts.
- The Inter-American Development Bank has loaned \$81 million for eight new projects to build new roads and industries and increase electric power across national boundaries.
- Throughout Latin America manufacturing production increased by almost 7 percent.

-- The Andean Development Corporation has joined together six nations -- Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela -- in a great new step toward building a common market for all of Latin America.

We are moving forward on a broad front in this hemisphere -- and not backward as some would have us believe. The dimension of poverty, ignorance, and disease which must be overcome in our Americas sobers us, but does not dismay us. Our confidence in what the Alliance can -- and will -- do springs from what it has done.

At Punta del Este my fellow Presidents and I called for a bold plan to overcome the physical barriers to Latin American unity. The Latin American countries have too long been isolated

from each other. They have looked across the seas to Europe and the United States. They have neglected to build the sinews of transportation and communications which can bind together a continent, as they have done for us in the United States.

For example:

- The man in Lima, Peru who wishes to talk to a man in Rio de Janeiro must do so through the telephone exchange in Miami or New York.
- The traveler from Porto Alegre, Brazil to Buenos Aires -- roughly the same distance as from Boston to Washington -- may take from two to three days.
- Most important, nations throughout the continent have great natural resources which their neighbors cannot or do not use. Locked behind the high

mountain ranges, deep rain forests and forbidding deserts that divide South America are fertile lands and unknown resources.

Central America has already demonstrated what can be accomplished when such resources are liberated by an interlocking system of roads and communications. Without these networks, the achievements of the Central American Common Market would not have been possible.

The new frontiers of the South American heartland beckon to the imaginative, the daring, the determined. A start has been made. I ask whether the time has not come to prepare a blueprint for carrying forward this gigantic enterprise -- an enterprise capable of uniting the continent with roads and river systems, power grids and pipelines, transport and telecommunications.

To this end, I suggest to my fellow Presidents and those who direct our Alliance for Progress, the establishment of a high-level task force, under the leadership of a distinguished Latin American, to prepare a five-year plan for speeding up the physical integration of our hemisphere. The United States will lend its fullest cooperation.

I am reminded of some famous words of Simon Bolivar to the leaders of his own day:

" Do not forget that you are about to lay the foundations of a new people, which may some day rise to the heights that Nature has marked out for it, provided you make those foundations ^{... #)} ~~proportionate to the lofty place that~~
~~people deserve.~~"

~~After nearly a century and a half,~~ We are still building those foundations. But we are building them together. Let us continue in that spirit -- in the true spirit of Bolivar. Let it

be our generation which finally realizes his great dream to

see all America "sitting on the throne of liberty, ~~the scepter~~

~~of justice in her hand, crowned by glory,~~ showing the old

world the majesty of the new."

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