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Latins Reported Indignant Over Johnson Aid Proposal

Montevideo, Uruguay, March 16—(UPI)—Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln Gordon met yesterday with Latin American diplomats to soothe their reported "indignation and disappointment" over President Johnson's aid proposals for hemisphere development.

Gordon's separate meetings with representatives of each of 17 Central and South American governments came after the Latin diplomats held a "summit conference" of their own on the Johnson aid proposal. Gordon was left waiting outside.

Mr. Johnson, in a message sent to Congress Monday, proposed increases in U. S. spending in Latin America by \$300

million a year for the next five years—a total of \$1.5 billion.

Latin diplomats privately called the proposal "absolutely insufficient," and "a pittance." Their reaction cast a cloud over the planned meeting of American presidents in Uruguay next month.

The Central and South American leaders emerged from their private "summit conference" expressing optimism that the Johnson proposal will be increased.

"The figure he proposes is very small but we expect it to be complemented," Paraguay's ambassador, Juan Plate, said. He called the meeting a "useful discussion."

One of Gordon's aides, Sam-

uel Eaton, said the division between the United States and the Latin countries was merely "a matter of clarification" and that "everything will be much better understood" after Gordon's meetings with the representatives of the disgruntled countries.

Over the past five years, American aid to Latin nations has totaled \$6.5 billion. Adding on the proposed \$1.5 billion would bring total spending over the next five years to around \$8 billion.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk noted Tuesday that Latin nations invested \$91 billion in their own development over the past five years.

Rusk, appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that although the Latin nations were close to attaining goals set in 1961, "there remains much unfinished and urgent business."