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### New Approach to Latin America's Old Problems

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Strike out pages 1 and 2 and lines 1, 2 and 3 on page 3 and substitute in lieu thereof the following:

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NEW APPROACH TO LATIN AMERICA'S OLD PROBLEMS

For half a decade goodwill missions have been returning from Latin America to report with unflinching regularity on the deterioration of our inter-American ties. For years, thoughtful hemispheric leaders, Members of Congress and the press have pleaded that we not overlook the gathering clouds to the south. Then came the storm in Cuba and the warnings finally sunk home.

At the San Jose American Foreign Ministers' conference which has just completed its labors, a new United States political approach was in evidence. Secretary Herter finally over-rode the hesitations of years of lethargic policy. He aligned the United States clearly with modern Latin American leadership in a sharp hemispheric break with the vestiges of old-style caudillo dictatorship, as typified by Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

Scarcely a week prior, a new approach to Latin America's economic problems had already been proposed. On August 15, Under-Secretary of State Dillon appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee to explain the Administration's request for a new Latin American aid program of \$500 million. He acknowledged at the outset that a unique relationship existed between the United States and our southern neighbors which had to be preserved. Then he asked for the necessary Congressional support to permit him to say the following to the Latin Americans at the Conference of American Economic Ministers in September:

On page 10, after the last line, insert the following new section:

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With this legislation, we can ask the nations of Latin America to come forward with national and regional plans for development of social infra-structure that has heretofore been largely neglected in the beachhead societies. We can ask for specifics on how much and what kind of housing is needed in the next few years in the cities of Latin America and what it will take to supply its inhabitants with pure water systems. We can ask what will be needed in the way of educational and training facilities to produce sufficient doctors, pharmacists, engineers, teachers and other professionals and skilled technicians to provide a continuing expansion of modern services to the ordinary people of Latin America. We can ask what roads and other transportation facilities need to be opened up or improved in order to bring into the modern world those who are living centuries or millenia in the past. We can ask what needs to be done to put into productive use millions of acres of neglected or virgin lands and other resources.

Most of all, we can ask what the Latin American nations are prepared to do for themselves and one another in this effort. We can ask if they are prepared to forego some of the show-pieces of modernism in favor of the sinews of modernism. We can ask discreetly after proposed reforms in systems of taxation and land tenure and to what degree indigenous labor and capital will be mobilized for self-help and mutual help.



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We will know, then, by next January, what the Latin American leaders themselves are able and prepared to do to close the gap between the beachhead societies and the modern social needs of their peoples. We will know, too, what we can do to help in this process. Finally, we can begin to offer that help from the United States in the form of financial assistance to specific social undertakings and in the form of technical skills where these do not exist in Latin America. As this approach begins to convert the beachhead societies into modern states, there will be a gain in political stability and the opportunities for additional economic development will begin to unfold. With attention to hemispheric trade and commodity problems and with private capital kept alert to its responsibilities as well as its rights, a continuing economic development in turn can produce rising levels of living and increasing opportunities for investment and commerce within the Hemisphere. That this sequence is possible is indicated by the experience of Puerto Rico which, with far greater inherent problems than most of the Latin American nations, has come a long way in scarcely two decades.

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On page 10, strike out lines 14, 15, 16 and 17 and insert in lieu thereof,  
the following:

provided the authorization for \$500 million as requested by the  
Administration. However, it required integrated plans for hemispheric  
action on economic and social