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Paraguay-Brasil Dispute 1 Of Many In Latin America

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(Rio de Janeiro Bureau of The Sun)

Rio de Janeiro, April 18—Brazil and Paraguay are at odds over a border dispute thought to have been settled nearly a century ago. An important hydro-electric power site is involved.

Paraguay has called its ambassador home, troops have been moved to the frontier, sharp notes have been exchanged and newspapers fired off periodic editorials.

At issue is an area along the Parana River, which defines the border between the two countries, and which is made attractive by its possibility as a source of hydroelectric energy with a potential of 10,000,000 kilowatts.

U.S. Opposed

The dispute is a symbol of conflicting nationalism prevalent in Latin America. Last month, several Latin nations blocked a United States attempt to broaden the peace-keeping powers of the Organization of American States, partly because they fear interference in several old border controversies.

Border questions between Paraguay and Brazil were thought to have been settled by an 1872 treaty. Brazil began technical studies in 1902 aimed at the utilization of the seven falls at Guaira and later offered Paraguay a share in the development.

Ex-President Joao Goulart suggested that the projected plant might also supply power to neighboring Argentina and Uruguay, and that these two countries might be interested in contributing to the costs of construction.

Following Goulart's ouster by a military coup in 1964, little was heard of the plan until last October, when President Alfredo Stroessner, of Paraguay, claimed Brazilian troops were occupying his nation's territory.

Brazil has rejected the complaints, saying the military activity was no more than a routine shift of its frontier forces. The area involved is largely uninhabited.

Plan Presented

At a conference in Panama last month, United States diplomats presented a plan giving the OAS Council power to initiate peace-keeping moves without the consent of all parties to the controversy.

The move appeared to be based on a desire to make the OAS more effective in dealing with emergency situations such as in the Dominican Republic. But several Latin nations saw it as a move which could force them to reopen existing treaties which are under attack.

Among the border disputes in

them, Peru is against any change.

2. In Bolivia, a permanent theme is the "redemption" of the seacoast areas lost to Chile in 1879. Bolivia and Chile severed relations a few years ago and have not reestablished them. Chile is against any change in the existing situation.

3. Argentina and Chile have engaged in a lengthy dispute over their Andean frontier that exploded into violence late last year when Argentine troops killed a Chilean border guard. Another dispute is under arbitration by the British, and there is ill feeling over conflicting claims in the

area of Tierra del Fuero.

4. Argentina also claims the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic as her territory, and Argentine maps call them the Malvinas. The British flatly reject the claim.

5. Guatemala has broken relations with Britain over control of British Honduras, or Belize. The Mexicans also have a claim to the territory, although they have been less aggressive than the Guatemalans.

Venezuela claims nearly two thirds of British Guiana, which is to become the independent nation of Guayana on May 26. Several conferences have been held, but the claim still stands.

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CARL T. ROWAN

The Fateful Dominican Campaign

If you really care about the political future of Latin America, keep a close eye on the Dominican Republic for the next two months.

Elections scheduled for June 1 are the hoped-for salvation of that little country, which recently was described by one of its former presidents as "tormented by hate, occupied by foreign troops, almost dying on the cross of uncertainty and poverty and living its darkest moments in 122 years."

The man who made that statement, Juan Bosch, is a major force and a major question mark in both the elections and the charting of the Dominican Republic's future.

Bosch was nominated Sunday as the presidential candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary party. But long before the nominating convention, this embittered, professorial liberal had been waging a daily campaign of radio broadcasts against those who have labeled him pro-Communist.

With scholarly explanations and biting sarcasm, some of the latter directed at the United States, he has defended himself against what he calls "slandorous charges" that he has entered a secret pact with the Communists.

"The Communists and we have agreed on only one point," Bosch told the Dominicans recently. "That (is) that U.S. intervention in our country is an incredible abuse, an unpardonable act, one of the greatest infamies in the history of America. We agreed on this point separately — they in their homes and we in ours."

Bosch's chief opposition

almost certainly will be Joaquin Balaguer, former president and long-time associate of ex-dictator Trujillo, for the Reformist party; and Rafael Bonelly, a right-winger, for the Movement of National Integration. These two parties will not nominate until April 17th, however. The 14th of June party (Communist) is expected to endorse Bosch, adding to his troubles.

While the United States, for the record, has no candidate, U.S. officials hope Balaguer will win. They figure he will be easier to live with than Bosch, who has expressed contempt for "Goliath," as he calls the United States.

Officials here also assume Balaguer will be tougher on the Communists and less forceful about demanding withdrawal of the 6,000 U.S. troops still in the Dominican Republic.

Some U.S. diplomats doubt the long-range wisdom of backing Balaguer, who rushed back to the Dominican Republic from his New York exile a few months ago under the guise of "visiting his ailing mother."

Balaguer's closeness to the late, unlamented dictator Trujillo is certain to be a campaign issue. The question is how much of the populace will believe that "his heart wasn't in" carrying out the assassinations and repressive edicts of Trujillo.

Two of our top experts have told the secretary of state and the President that "Balaguer has got it made." But two other high ranking advisers are saying that Bosch will win by a slim margin. The latter advisers say that Bosch is sure to win if Bonelly refuses

to make a deal with Balaguer. Bonelly would probably take 30,000 to 40,000 conservative votes away from Balaguer.

If Bosch wins, the United States presumably will try to get along with him. U.S. officials have noted with pleasure that the platform of Bosch's party contains far fewer anti-U.S. references than were expected. They note also that, while it calls for withdrawal of foreign troops, no deadline is set.

But the question is not whether the United States would "tolerate" the election of Bosch. It is whether we would then give him enough support to prevent his being ousted again by the right-wingers.

Ramon Castillo, president of the insignificant Christian Democratic Progressive party, said last week that Bosch continues to agitate the people and "we can see that he is preparing another revolution. But this time, if one drop of blood is shed here, his will be shed too . . . We will all be together in the leaky boat and his feet will get wet first."

Bosch says some Dominicans more powerful than Castillo are equally eager to spill his blood but too shrewd to say so publicly.

Some fateful decisions will be made by the United States during and after this Dominican election campaign. It is a small tragedy that the American people cannot follow the campaigning first-hand so as to make up their own minds as to who is a Communist, who is a dictator or who deserves whatever support our country has a right to give in an election in another country.

INTER-AMERICAN LABOR BULLETIN
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3 Union Rural Centers Near Completion in Brazil

The year 1966 has opened in Brazil with three union rural centers nearing completion in the Pernambuco area, and with a site now bought for a 41-union, five-billion-cruzeiros housing project in urban São Paulo. Tabulations meanwhile show that by the end of 1965 more than 3,000 Brazilian trade unionists had been reached by the program of education conducted by the American Institute for Free Labor Development.

In two and a half years of operations the Institute's activities have extended geographically in the country until they cover an area reaching more than 2,200 miles from the Amazon to the Brazilian frontiers with Uruguay.

Education activities range from lecture series and seminars conducted for a few days in towns and rural communities to formal studies of three months in the resident Institute in São Paulo.

Social projects, including large-scale worker housing planning, center in one phase on Brazilian cities which contain nearly an eighth of the 82-million total population, and nearly a fourth of the industrial workers of all Latin America.

Housing planning is proceeding at Rio de Janeiro, while the urban housing site at São Paulo has been bought in the so-called "ABC" area, the suburban municipality of São Bernardo do Campo, on the city's eastern outskirts.

The 23,000-square-meter housing site is a spread of flat ground, bordering a major highway now under construction through the largest industrial center of Latin America.

Crucial Region

The northeast area, where the first three of a series of rural union centers are nearing the end of construction, is viewed as "one of the most crucial regions of the hemisphere." These first three centers are at Carpina, Ribeirão and Garanhuns, in the state of

Pernambuco, where unemployment among workers is highly acute.

The centers have been financed under AIFLD auspices by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and when occupied will be headquarters for union activities extending into many program fields for a wide geographical area.

In addition to legal and medical services, youth and education activities and such economic services for union members as credit unions, land purchase and improvement cooperatives, the rural centers will provide office space for union administration, membership assembly meetings, committee meetings and social events.

Legal Services

Both medical and legal services will be provided at the centers, the first including an out-patient medical and dental clinic while the legal services will extend to advising families in the local rural labor federations on their most urgent problems in regard to land, debt and family. It has also been recommended that special seminars be conducted for the general membership with some of these to deal with the rights and obligations of organized rural workers under existing labor laws.

Medical Program

Space has been planned in each center for a doctor's office, a dentist's office and an attendant nurse. Competent physicians and dentists are to be provided two days a week while a registered nurse will be available on a full-time basis.

It is anticipated that the average annual attendance may reach a figure of 20,000 patients in all centers. The out-patient clinics are expected to provide for walk-in examinations, routine treatment and medication, minor surgery and dressing, and dental extractions and fillings. Patients found needing treatment and care at medical facilities offering better diagnostic and prognostic possibilities will be referred accordingly.

In conformity with the seriousness of local health conditions in the Northeast, out-patient medical assistance will emphasize treatment for malnutrition, dehydration, intestinal parasites, anemias, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, communicable diseases, pediatrics and aggravated dental problems.

The AIFLD team has already contacted potential donors of medical and dental equipment and drugs on the basis of recommendations drawn up by Dr. Paulo Rodrigues Ferreira, an experienced staff physician connected with three Recife hospitals.

INTER-AMERICAN LABOR BULLETIN
April 1966

Velazquez Declares Mexican Unionism Safe from Communism

Fidel Velázquez, Secretary General of the Mexican Confederation of Labor (CTM), celebrated his 30th anniversary as a union leader last month by proclaiming that "Mexican unionism will never fall into the hands of international communism."

Velázquez, who helped found the CTM in 1936, has been head of the CTM for 18 years.

Mexican workers have taken many steps forward since the CTM was founded, including enactment of minimum wage laws and other protective measures, Velázquez said.

He revealed for the first time the reason behind the expulsion of Vicente Lombardo Toledano, another of the six founders of the organization, in 1940. Velázquez said Lombardo Toledano had wanted to put the union under Moscow control, but lost an internal struggle with the other CTM chiefs.

Lombardo Toledano, ex head of the Popular Socialist Party, has been Mexico's most influential leftist leader for years.

Toledano's party struck back, criticizing Velázquez for putting the CTM into the Inter-American Regional Workers Organization (ORIT) which they said "is under the control of the American imperialists," the standard communist line concerning the organization.

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Cuban Military Using New Radio

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Cuban underground sources report a powerful radio station has begun broadcasting from a three-story subterranean Cuban military command post.

The reports, made public by the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, said the installation, at Bejucal, near Havana, was constructed by the Soviet Union and has reinforced concrete and a steel frame as air attack protection.

The committee, an American anti-Castro group, said the radio's principal function may be "to maintain clandestine contact with guerrilla groups in Latin America."

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
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Fidel Celebrates

HAVANA, April 18 — Cuban MIG fighters and tanks sank a derelict tramp steamer in Havana Harbor yesterday in a display marking the fifth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Watching the demonstration was Premier Fidel Castro and his brother, Raul, armed service chief, as waves of Soviet-built rocket-firing planes and tanks swept over the ship.

The big event also featured aerial acrobatics by a Cuban Air Force team which soared over the harbor at supersonic speed.