

21 JUNE 1965

LATIN AMERICA

Alliance for Reaction

Edmundo Flores

The Alliance for Progress, born a little more than four years ago, has undergone an ugly transformation and has entered a "hard" stage peopled by characters out of the Pentagon, the CIA and the Marine Corps.

Edmundo Flores is a professor of agricultural economics at the National University of Mexico, and at present a visiting professor of the social sciences at the University of Chicago. Dr. Flores has frequently advised the UN and the FAO on matters of land reform and economic development.

The passwords now are military aid, counter-insurgency, civic action and armed intervention. The Brazilian coup and the occupation of Santo Domingo are the two better known—but by no means the only—incidents of this hard stage.

What is the rationale behind the return to direct intervention and U.S. military power? What are the differences, if any, between President Johnson's "Invade Thy Neighbor Policy" and Theodore Roosevelt's "Gunboat Diplomacy"? How

will Latin America react this time? In 1960, Cuba demonstrated only too clearly that the pressures for social and economic reform in Latin America were formidable. The defensive response of many frightened American nations was the Alliance for Progress. In ten years, with the magic of 10 billion U.S. dollars, the Alliance would streamline rigid social structures, revitalize economies and pave the way for political stability. The miracle of the Marshall Plan would be re-

Continued