

# Egghead Politics Dangerous

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In the dawning days of the Kennedy Administration the egghead branch of the New Frontier launched a balloon bearing the message that U. S. representatives dealing with Latin America should get better acquainted with the intellectuals, the poets and philosophers throughout the hemisphere.



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With the backing of such prominent presidential advisers as U. N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and White House Counselor Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., this message became a part of the creed of the New Frontiersmen's new look at Latin America.

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Of course, there is nothing wrong with U. S. foreign policy missionaries getting to know better the intellectual circles in the Americas. So long as this cultural exchange doesn't become the overpowering influence in formulating inter-American

policy, there is no reason why it should not be a useful undertaking.

The danger has shown itself, however, in two countries where the egghead approach has led to agreements with subtle

leftists who are able to move in the intellectual circles.

Argentina is the most recent case in point. Here, Ambassador Stevenson and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Richard Nathan Goodwin fell into the embrace of Rogelio Frigerio, Communist-Peronist-lining "gray eminence" behind the government of ousted President Arturo Frondizi. Frigerio fled to Brazil when it became obvious that Frondizi was finished.

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With a number of responsible Argentines aware of Frigerio's influence with Goodwin, Stevenson and other Johnny-come-lately experts on Latin America in the Kennedy Administration was strong — even robust enough to pressure the removal of a U. S. diplomat

wary of Frigerio's maneuverings — it becomes difficult to determine the exact picture of the U. S. position in Argentina today.

Responsible Argentines — and a number of U. S. officials who have been ignored by the New Frontier liberals — also are aware that it was Frigerio, who was responsible for Frondizi's miscalculation on the voting strength of the Peronists in Argentina's (a fearful) March 18 election.

Brazil has also offered an example of the hazards of heavy efforts to copy up to a point capable of leading the United States into new difficulties. The left-leaning intellectual in this country, who succeeded in uprooting a popular, firm U. S. envoy, got him replaced with a Harvard professor, Leon Gordon, who has proved to be a babe in the Brazilian political woods.

His non-standards friends have just played a major role in the removal of Robert F. Wood as assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs because of his concern about Brazilian domination of U. S. policy.