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Goodwin's Impressive Exposition

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

At the hemisphere's first public examination of the Alliance for Progress, held by New York's Overseas Press Club last week, initial interest centered on Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Richard N. Goodwin.

Mr. Goodwin had just been recognized in the U. S. press as President Kennedy's top lieutenant for expediting the Alliance. Many of the forty experts from the hemisphere's labor, diplomacy, government, business, education and communications were frankly curious to see how a young man at thirty, newly come to their field, would perform under fire.

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Richard Goodwin indeed does not claim long expertise on Latin America, but he is the world's second authority on the Alliance for Progress. After President Kennedy, he has been closest to this new departure in U. S. foreign policy. His well-organized statement on the Alliance revealed that he has done an impressive amount of homework on U. S. foreign policy and Latin American problems, past and present. At no time did the critical ear catch the false notes he would inevitably have struck without a thoro grounding in these subjects.

One of the toughest-minded of the self-appointed critics present expressed a general reaction when he said, "I hate

to admit, but it was a fine exposition."

Once established that the young man who bears such a tremendous responsibility for this new hemisphere policy can command the respect of his semi-hostile elders in an open forum—and New Frontiersman Goodwin did this right on thru the rough-and-tumble question period—his statement is important for the light it sheds on the scope of the Alliance.

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Mr. Goodwin made three striking points. FIRST, that the Alliance is an attack on "all the ills" of Latin America. SECOND, the Alliance will attempt to help "the forces of progressive democracy" in Latin America. THIRD, it will try to bring to Latin America in 10 years the social and economic evolution it has taken this nation and Europe a century to achieve.

Mr. Goodwin acknowledged freely the magnitude and dangers of this task, and that all the Free World and all its resources, public and private, must be enlisted. The cost of success is speculative, he said, but the cost of failure will be



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even higher—"the establishment of a neutralist or communist area covering much of this hemisphere . . ."

The President's right-hand man for the Alliance stressed that we cannot impose all this—we can only offer it and work for it.

This writer's major reservation in contemplating the full, almost stunning intention of the Alliance is this: Will Latin Americans themselves be able to forego their much-indulged luxury of anti-Yankeeism sufficiently to grasp what this means? Will they then discipline their national affairs in such a way as to derive full benefit from it?

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