

M. 111,303
S. 213,743

SEP 10 1964

Honduran Blames U.S. For His Ouster

By NAT CARNES
Copley News Service

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Honduras' exiled former President Ramon Villeda Morales blames the United States for the military coup that ousted him last October.

Villeda insists that he is "a friend and admirer" of the United States but hints that U.S. policy "is responsible for coups in Latin America."

In an exclusive interview, the dapper doctor turned politician said "the United States needs to change its view toward international politics, especially in the Western Hemisphere."

COOPS BACKED

He suggested that some individuals and groups in the U.S. State Department, the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency have been encouraging military coups like the one that sent him into exile in Costa Rica.

Villeda says that "this U.S. element" acts without the knowledge or approval of the whole U.S. government.

Villeda's outburst came as a shock. It is recalled that the United States immediately sus-

— pended its relations with the military junta that took power in Honduras after Villeda's ouster and halted its military and economic assistance to the impoverished Central American country. Relations were re-established 10 weeks later.

What is more, it generally is agreed in Honduras that the military pulled its coup primarily to block the probable election of Modesto Rodas Alvarado, presidential candidate of the governing Liberal party.

PLEGGED BUDGET CUT

Rodas had declared that, if elected, as appeared likely with the government counting the votes, he would cut the budget of the Honduran regular army sharply and strengthen the Liberal party's own private army known as the Civil Guard.

Villeda, came here to join other Latin Americans in an "International Study Group on Democratic Development."

Most of the participants in the study group, like Villeda, seem to feel that the United States should limit its role in the hemisphere to that of banker and should not attempt to guide the other American republics politically or ideologically.

VOICE DISTORTIONS

Although they consider themselves intellectuals and profess admiration for the United States, they often voice distortions of their own and Latin history in apparent attempts to discredit the United States.

Pressed for specific recommendations as to improvement in U.S. policy toward Latin America, Villeda declared, "First, you need to understand Latin America. It is impossible to use the same approach for all of our nations. What is logical in Honduras may not work at all in Chile or Brazil."

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