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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

COBAT

October 22, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF OCB WORKING GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA

SUBJECT: Hemisphere TV

Because of the great interest of the Working Group in the above subject, and the frequent discussions of the subject in the Working Group meetings, I quote below a recent statement by Mr. Albert F. Watters, Vice President in Charge of the International Division of Radio Corporation of America, showing that that Company has this problem very much in mind and well in hand.

"We are constantly working toward the expansion of television and its associated relay facilities in Latin America so that as quickly as possible hemispheric television will become a reality. RCA has been in the forefront in encouraging Latin American stations to use American television standards which are so essential for the interchange of live programs.

"We are giving the Mexican broadcasters and the Cuban broadcasters special technical help to permit them to furnish programs to the U. S. microwave relay system. NBC, through its Wide World program, has been instrumental in bringing programs from Mexico and Cuba to the United States. We are developing new equipment which will make relaying of television programs much less costly than in the United States and therefore more practical for Latin America.

"RCA has been instrumental in introducing television in Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay, and Venezuela.* We are working closely with the other Latin American countries to encourage them, by means of television demonstrations, to introduce this great new medium of education and entertainment to their peoples. Our experience has shown that with the advent of television in a country or area, plans for expansion follow naturally and quickly within the country and to its neighbors."

- * You will recall that the USIA report on TV activities, summarized as Attachment 1 of the minutes of the August 16 Working Group meeting, listed Nicaragua as one of the seven LA countries in which there were no stations in June 1956, and listed Venezuela as the only LA country using the Argentine 625-line-6 Mc/s-Bandwidth-25-frame system.

RPC
R. P. Crenshaw, Jr.
OCB Staff Representative