

U.S. MAY ABANDON EFFORT TO DETER LATIN DICTATORS

Mann Is Said to Be Against
Trying to Separate 'Good
Guys and Bad Guys'

REDS WOULD BE FOUGHT

Report That Kennedy Policy
Faces Reversal Dismays
2 Democratic Senators

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WASHINGTON, March 18 —
The United States was reported
today to be considering modifi-
cation of its policy of actively
opposing rightist and military
dictatorships that might emerge
in the future in Latin America.

It will continue to oppose
forcefully Communist dictator-
ships, such as Cuba's.

The reported shift in policy,
under which the United States
would no longer seek to punish
military juntas for overthrow-
ing democratic regimes, was
outlined last night by Thomas
C. Mann, Assistant Secretary
of State for Inter-American
Affairs.

The suggested policy change,
it was said, is not designed
to display any United States
sympathies for dictatorships, but
rather to avoid involvement in
domestic political crises in the
Latin-American republics.

Deterrent Would Be Ended

Its immediate effect would be to eliminate such deterrents against coups d'état as were used by the Kennedy Administration. Policy under the previous Administration was to deny diplomatic relations and economic aid to newly created military regimes, unless they offered firm assurances of restoring democratic rule within the foreseeable future.

That policy was applied only to military coups that emerged during the Kennedy Administration. It did not retroactively affect established authoritarian regimes.

Mr. Mann, who is President Johnson's chief Latin-American policy-maker, discussed his views on dictatorships and democracy in the Western Hemisphere in an address to a group of high-ranking United States officials serving in Latin America.

Earlier Policies Recalled

Mr. Mann was quoted as having said that going back to the nineteen-thirties, when Sumner Welles was Under-Secretary of State, the United States had not succeeded by its opposition in unseating a dictator. He cited Juan D. Perón of Argentina and the late Gen. Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua.

Therefore, he was said to have concluded, the United States should stop trying to distinguish among such regimes.

At this point, informants said,

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U.S. Considers Ending Policy Of Opposing Latin Dictators

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John O. Bell, Ambassador to Guatemala, asked whether the new policy meant that there would no longer be "good guys or bad guys" as far as United States policy was concerned. Mr. Mann was reported to have replied that that was correct.

He recalled that Mexico traditionally invoked the so-called Estrada doctrine in recognizing new Latin-American governments following coups d'état. This doctrine proclaims, in brief, that the criterion for recognition should be the effective control of the country by the new government.

The group the Assistant Secretary addressed included all the United States Ambassadors, charges d'affaires and chiefs of aid missions in Latin America, who were summoned here by President Johnson for a three-day review conference. They met with the President this afternoon.

Four Points Stressed

Mr. Mann spoke at a closed session at the State Department and no transcript of his remarks was available. The essence of his comments, and numerous details, were conveyed today to key members of Congress. Mr. Mann is said to have emphasized four purposes United States policy in Latin America should serve.

They are the fostering of economic growth in the area, the protection of \$9 billion in United States investments there, non-intervention in the internal political affairs of the hemisphere's republics, and opposition to Communism.

Mr. Mann was said to have told the ambassadors that while the United States believed in democracy and should advocate its development, it could not impose this system on Latin-American countries.

Therefore, he indicated, the United States should not become involved in domestic political situations in Latin America.

Mr. Mann's views were considered as representing a radical modification of the policies followed by the Kennedy Administration under the Alliance for Progress.

broke diplomatic relations for varying periods with Argentina, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, when democratic regimes there were overthrown by military coups d'état. In each case economic aid was suspended as well.

The impression made by Mr. Mann's remarks was that the United States would no longer embark on such policies.

In his criticism of the asserted failure of the anti-dictatorship policy, Mr. Mann was reported to have said that, while the United States must not identify itself with dictators or award them medals, it should likewise avoid identification with other political groups in the Latin American countries.

Hard to Identify Rulers

Mr. Mann was reported to have remarked that it was very difficult to classify rulers as dictators or democrats in Latin America.

He was quoted as having said he had difficulties in distinguishing politically between Presidents Adolfo Lopez Mateos of Mexico, Victor Paz Estenssoro of Bolivia, and Alfred Stroessner of Paraguay.

Mr. Mann's views on dictatorships and democracies brought forth no comment from the ambassadors attending the meeting, according to qualified sources.

However, at this morning's ambassadorial session, two influential Democratic Senators strongly insisted that the United States must fight for the preservation of democracy in Latin America as part of the Alliance.

They were Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, and Wayne Morse, Democrat of Oregon, who is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Latin America.

Senators Humphrey and Morse made no specific reference to Mr. Mann's exposition of last night, but said that Congress did not look with favor upon governments in Latin

President Kennedy believed that economic and social development under the Alliance must move hand-in-hand with the development of democracy and that, therefore, the United States had the duty actively to encourage the practice of democracy and refuse its help to regimes that had overturned representative democracies.

This concept was recognized in the Alliance's charter, signed at Punta del Este, Uruguay, by 20 American governments in August, 1961.

It proclaimed in its "declaration to the peoples of America" that "this alliance is established on the basic principle that free men working through the institution of representative democracy can best satisfy man's aspirations."

To implement this concept, the Kennedy Administration

America that shot their way into power.

Diplomats who attended last night's session said that in his entire presentation Mr. Mann made no mention of the Alliance for Progress.
