

March 31st last and had been expected to continue until mid-May. However, it was interrupted by a violent outburst of rioting from April 9th to April 14th and as a result, sessions and agenda were drastically curtailed.

The assassination of the leader of the Colombian Liberal Party, Sr. Gaitan, set off the revolt which left downtown Bogota in shambles. At first, it was felt that the uprising was Communist inspired. It is now generally conceded that the Communists did not inspire the riots but that they were at least well organized enough as to be able to take full advantage of them. It now appears that Gaitan's murder was the result of a personal grievance on the part of his aggressor and that the riots really commenced as a spontaneous outburst of emotion on the part of the populace.

Officially the Conference has been characterized as a great success. The unofficial reaction, however, has been much more reserved and probably more accurate. Such newspapers as the *New York Times*, *The New York Herald Tribune*, *The Baltimore Sun* and the *Christian Science Monitor* were editorially most unenthusiastic about the results achieved.

The Conference will undoubtedly be best remembered because of Latin-American agitation against European colonies in the Americas, Latin-American insistence on outright United States economic handouts, loans at advantageous rates etc., and for its disclosure of the extent of Communist penetration in Latin America.

It is fairly obvious that the greedy attitude of the Latin-American Governments with regard to the Marshall Plan and to European colonies in this hemisphere was most unsatisfactory and that this position was a disappointment to the United States. The chief concern of many Latin-American Governments at Bogota seems only to have been to secure maximum advantage for themselves under the Marshall Plan, as well as to take advantage of the weakened position of Great Britain, in particular, in order to increase their own territory.

Inasmuch as the United States refused to deviate from its policy of European reconstruction first and to lend its support to Latin-American territorial ambitions, a certain amount of friction between United States and Latin-American delegates arose during the Conference, especially as regards economic matters; this is likely to increase in the near future, chiefly at the forthcoming Inter-American Economic Conference, scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires next September, when Inter-American (largely Latin-American) economic problems are to be considered, and at Havana, also next September, when the question of European colonies in the Americas will be studied.

On April 22nd, the Bogota delegates approved a resolution which provides for the establishment of a permanent Commission at Havana "to study and recommend solutions for the pacific abolition of extracontinental administration and occupation of colonies and territories in the Western Hemisphere."

This resolution was adopted without dissent, but there were several important abstentions, notably the United States and Brazil. The United States abstained on the grounds that the European nations concerned did not have a chance to be heard in the matter. Brazil thought that this was a subject beyond the competence of the Conference.