

be based in fact on four pillars which, although of unequal strength, still constituted the four foundation stones of regional integration. These four pillars are: in the economic sphere, the Cartagena Agreement; in the cultural sphere, the Andres Bello Agreement; and in the social sphere, the Hipolito Unanue and Simon Rodriguez agreements.

In the field of economics, the Cartagena Agreement provided for the setting up of a Commission which would be the key organ in the community institutional structure. Made up of one principal representative from each member country, the Commission is responsible for formulating the main economic policies, and is chiefly responsible for supervising proper implementation of the Agreement. Its decisions require a two-thirds majority or, for important questions, unanimity. It is the Commission that assigns work projects to the Junta and, in the absence of a community court of justice, it acts as the organ for monitoring the legal aspects of the Cartagena Agreement and ensures that the member countries respect the obligations they have undertaken within the framework of the Agreement. The growing difficulties experienced by the Commission in carrying out the latter function have demonstrated to the members the importance of setting up a community court of justice as soon as possible. For various reasons the Commission has so far been unable to come to a decision to do so, but a recent work program of the Junta indicates that they will decide in favour of setting up the necessary mechanism by the end of 1979.

The Cartagena Agreement provided for the founding of a technical body, the Junta, which would be composed of three members to whom the Constitutive Treaty guaranteed total independence of action. The technical body also plays an important administrative and executive role, since besides performing all the functions of a permanent secretariat, the Junta conducts studies requested by the Commission and supervises implementation of the Agreement as well as of the Commission's decisions. The Andean Development Corporation was founded by a separate treaty, and it too constitutes an important community organization in the economic sphere. Subject to international law, the ADC is the first exclusively Latin American international financial organization. It began operation in 1970 with the primary object of facilitating the economic and social development of the member countries. Its activities in this sphere are carried out through technical and financial assistance; priority is given to industrial development.

The other organs of the Cartagena Agreement — the Economic and Social Advisory Committee, the Consultative Committee and the various councils — are advisory bodies, as their names indicate. It must be said that for various reasons they have to date been unable to play the full role expected of them.

Finally, other community institutions have also

been set up for cultural and social activities. The Andres Bello Agreement, signed by the representatives of all the Andean countries at the beginning of 1970, governs community relations in the fields of education, science and culture. Article 34 of the Agreement stipulates that all regional educational, scientific and cultural activities will be co-ordinated by a number of permanent community agencies. The most important of these is the Conference of Ministers of Education, which plays a role similar to that of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement. This "Council of Ministers" is backed by a co-ordination office, a committee of national directors of planning and a number of joint commissions. In the health and labour sectors, the Hipolito Unanue and Simon Rodriguez agreements provide for community structures, similar to that of the Andres Bello Agreement, for everything relating to co-ordination of regional activities in these spheres.

Chief mechanisms

Although the priorities of the region have forced the Andean countries to devote most of their efforts to economic activities, the member countries have still considered it necessary, from the beginning of the integration process, to take an interest in educational and cultural matters. The leaders of these countries soon learned that education and culture could perform an important role in establishing regional solidarity and at the same time play a significant part in the transformation of economic structures. That is why, despite the shortage of funds available to them for this purpose, the governments of the member countries did not hesitate to carry out programs in each of these fields. An effort at harmonizing school systems has been made, which has made possible the establishment of a system of diplomas valid in all member countries, and has promoted the use of common textbooks in various subjects at the primary level. An International Integration Institute and an Andean Entrepreneurs' School have also been founded. It should be noted, further, that there is already close co-operation between the various cultural institutes and that the member countries have implemented a training and research program in social communications. Lastly, a Commission of Higher Education has been set up for the entire region and, following the signing of the University Compromise of Trujillo in 1974, an Andean Association of Universities has also been established. Naturally these steps are only a beginning, but to realize their full importance we have to remember that the Andean countries have never really been associated in the past and that animosity still persists in the region as a result of the scars of border conflicts. Much remains to be done on the cultural level, but the efforts already made deserve high praise in a venture so complex that the results

