

Supply—External Affairs

does not even discuss the danger of communism in Latin America, but the situation he describes sounds very familiar to those of us who have watched the pattern of communist revolution in other parts of the world.

According to the *Foreign Affairs* article to which I referred, Latin America has not developed genuine liberal democracies. The only form of political authority which typifies government in Latin America is personal authority. The only way this personal political authority can be transferred is through violence or death. In any stable democracy there must be freedom of association to organize political parties as alternatives to the party controlling the government. In Cuba, however, and this is typical of Latin America generally, what seemed to be political parties on the surface were not parties at all in our sense of the word. They were merely groups of office seekers in search of a leader who would authorize their misuse of public funds for private ends. Sometimes the forms of democracy have been observed, but only the forms. The real pattern of Latin American history for the last 150 years has been dictatorship, rebellion and again dictatorship. There seems to be little hope of change in this pattern.

Professor Tannenbaum does not draw the clear implications of his study but they are there to be considered by all who have responsibility for the planning of western policy. Mr. Khrushchev has shown that he understands the term peaceful co-existence in an active rather than a passive sense. In the case of Latin America it is entirely likely that Mr. Khrushchev is considering the possibility of shortening the time when communism will, in his words, inevitably triumph. So far it is true that there has been little communist penetration in the region, but if Professor Tannenbaum is correct South America may well be the next continent on the Kremlin's list. The situation he describes is exactly the type of situation in which communism thrives.

For most of the people of Latin America the political choice is not between dictatorship and democracy but is between a dictatorship which looks as if it were endeavouring to give them enough to eat and one which does not give that appearance. If the west wishes to keep Latin America out of the soviet camp it should adopt policies which in the long run will make possible a third choice, namely a system of politics under which peaceful changes of government can take place.

In his speech of February 10 to which I have already referred, the Secretary of State

for External Affairs advocated increased trade with Latin America, expansion of cultural relations, the possibility of official visits, and the strengthening of diplomatic relations, but not a word was said about helping the ordinary people of the Latin American republics who are in many cases left or even kept in poverty, ignorance and ill health in homelands which are rapidly becoming overpopulated because no one cares enough to make the considerable effort necessary to lift them from the feudal past to an industrial future.

As the minister said, Latin America is indeed an area in which a great deal more can be done than has been done in the past. I hope that when the hon. gentleman spoke about extending cultural relations he had in mind something that would be of direct benefit to the people as opposed to governments. For example, if we engaged in an exchange of primary, secondary and even university teachers, considerable benefits might well flow to the people of Latin America over a period of years. Similarly there might be an extension of activity in the field of student exchanges to include, with the assistance of scholarships, the children of the less well-to-do in Latin America.

In closing I wish to quote from an article in the March 1, 1958 issue of *Saturday Night*:

In a world that tends to see the fight for freedom often in terms of the struggle between the soviets and their chained peoples, the repeated violence in the Latin American republics, as regimes come and go, testifies at least as much to the vitality there of liberty as an ideal as it does to the inability, as yet, of the Latins to find their own answers to political stability.

We might be able to help the peoples of Latin America find some of their own answers to the problems of politics if we concerned ourselves with the basic importance of helping to establish for them a sound foundation of education. It might be said that Canada can do little here. I reply that in education even more than in economics a multiple effect is achieved. After all, Christ taught only 12 disciples but it was not long, as history shows, before the Roman world was Christian.

If we help teach the ways of liberal democracy not only to the people of Latin America but to the Africans and Asians, we may well be doing something for which governments are not noted, namely having due regard for the long term interests of the nation and indeed our entire civilization. I earnestly believe we should consider joining the organization of American states which is holding an empty chair for Canada to occupy.

Mr. Stinson: Mr. Chairman, following as I do the Associate Minister of National Defence