

LATIN AMERICANS' LAST ILLUSIONS FADING

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The OAS farce in Santo Domingo

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LATIN AMERICA'S most notorious tyrant, Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, is sending 180 Paraguayan soldiers into Santo Domingo. They will join about 1,500 Nicaraguans, Costa Ricans, Brazilians and Hondurians whom Washington has already mustered to make its invading army look like an Organization of American States peace force.

Under present plans to hold the postponed OAS foreign ministers' meeting in August, the main business will be the strengthening and perpetuation of this force to suppress any Latin American bid for independence and sovereignty. This involves transforming the OAS from a regional non-military organism within the United Nations into a Western Hemisphere NATO or SEATO. Washington will press for "modification" of clauses in the present charter which do not fit the anti-Communist approach—the clauses stipulating inviolability of any state's territory, and non-intervention in any state's affairs whatever the motive or form.

The arm-twisting will need to be more ruthless than in the past, since Santo Domingo developments have steadily stripped illusions from Washington's "liberal" defenders south of the border. The final blow to these Latin Americans was that the \$25 million appropriation for the "inter-American force" should have been introduced by Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), extolled by Vice President Humphrey, backed by Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) and passed without a contrary murmur in the U.S. Senate. Whatever Latin America may "contribute" to pay for the force, it will clearly be U.S.-financed as it is U.S.-directed. "Native" participation will be similar to that of the Gurkhas and other British colonialist mercenaries, leaving U.S. imperialism without even the Alliance for Progress figleaf provided by President Kennedy.

Latin Americans who cling to belief in the Alliance for Progress are now seeing Kennedy's assassination as the curtain-raiser to the Dominican affair. They are openly voicing suspicions that Kennedy was put out of the way by U.S. neo-imperialist forces, to wring still more profits from the underdeveloped countries by whatever violence might be necessary. In any case, their exultations over the "defeat" of Goldwater have turned to dust in their mouths.

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