

The question was raised at a closed hearing of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee last January when Rep. Donald K. Fraser (D-Minn.) noted that the U.S. had been criticized for recent coups in the Dominican Republic and Honduras by military groups that included U.S.-trained officers. A transcript of the hearing was released yesterday.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Frank K. Sloan said "the absence or presence of U.S. military training does not cause - perhaps it helps prevent - the military take-over."

Sloan added that "the length of military governments in Latin America is steadily declining. Once they do take over, as has happened in the Dominican Republic and Peru and Ecuador and others, they almost immediately make the announcement that they are going to hold elections sometime and they will set a date."

He said that nations receiving U.S. military aid are becoming more and more interested in trying to promote the nonpolitical character of their forces and the professional standing as professional military people of their officers."

In a statement accompanying the transcript, Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the subcommittee, interpreted the testimony of Sloan and other witnesses as indicating that the United States is changing the emphasis of its foreign aid program by putting more ideology into it.

He said that the U.S. is changing its foreign aid program to emphasize the objective of economic and social development and that the U.S. is becoming more interested in promoting the professional standing of the military officers in the recipient countries.