

he started his revolution nine years ago. He was there, improbably enough, to award diplomas to 426 medical students, climaxing nearly a week of hoopla calculated to revive his people's flagging "revolutionary fervor." For four days and nights, students and friends had hiked up the mountain with the bearded dictator.* At one point during the trek, Castro called for helicopter delivery of 1,000 quarts of ice cream for his weary followers. Tons of food, TV cameras and electrical generating equipment were hauled to the campsite, where eventually over 1,000 Cubans gathered with the Maximum Leader.

An Exile Caper. On TV from Pico Turquino next day, Castro predictably blamed the waterfront raid on "the CIA, which has perpetrated all types of misdeeds and crimes against this country." In reply, three exile groups in Miami quickly admitted that they had pulled off the caper "to show that Castro is vulnerable." The boats, according to exiles, had not come from Florida but from a "secret base" outside U.S. jurisdiction. There seemed little doubt on that score. For over a year, the U.S. has tried to restrain anti-Castroites from such exciting but basically pointless adventures.† The surveillance has been increased fivefold since the Cuban refugee evacuation began last month with a rush of small boats from Florida; now that Castro has signed a "memorandum of understanding" to set up an airlift of 3,000-4,000 refugees a month, no one wants to give him any excuse to renege.

At week's end Castro still seemed as eager to get rid of his disaffected citizens as they were to get out. Three charter boats were evacuating 2,000 refugees stranded at the port of Camarioca since the small-boat exodus was cut off three weeks ago, and the word was that the airlift would begin Dec. 1.

THE ALIANZA

Three on the Go

Four years after the *Alianza* set out to help 200 million Latin Americans make progress, there were still half a dozen countries teetering on the brink of political and economic chaos. But it is now clear that three tiny, historically tortured countries can be taken off the crisis list.

• **NICARAGUA.** In office since 1963, President René Schick, 56, works in the shad-

* Among those prominently present: Aleida Guevara, wife—or possibly widow—of erstwhile Castro No. 2 man Che Guevara, who disappeared, leaving his family "in the care of the state."

† Including an attempt last week by a 16-year-old Texas high-school student named Thomas Robinson to hijack a National Airlines DC-8 jetliner bound from New Orleans to Melbourne, Fla., with 84 passengers, including Christopher Kraft, flight director for NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center near Houston. Muttering that he wanted to go to Cuba to protest Castro's political prisoners, Robinson pulled two pistols, fired several shots into the plane's floor, but was subdued before he reached the cockpit.



NICARAGUA'S SCHICK



HONDURAS' LÓPEZ



PARAGUAY'S STROESSNER

After four years, an introduction to progress.

ow of the Somoza brothers, Tachito and Luis, who control the country's military and much of its wealth. Schick and the Somozas are development-minded, however, and since 1961 their small (pop. 1,600,000) country's G.N.P. has increased by a phenomenal 40%, highest sustained growth in Central America. From the Alliance for Progress has come \$30 million for such projects as construction of 350 miles of roads to stimulate dairy and beef production, reduce dependence on cotton. Foreign investors have teamed with local entrepreneurs to produce everything from TV sets to insecticides—and a new class of forward-looking managers, such as Businessman (construction, automobile parts) Enrique Pereira, 42, is emerging to "take the country out of the feudal ages for everybody's benefit."

• **HONDURAS.** With 136 coups in 144 years of independence, this neighboring Central American republic (pop. 2,000,000) can at least thank Strongman General Osvaldo López, 44, for two years of political stability—and economic growth. With \$25 million a year in *Alianza* aid, generous foreign investment, and their own nine-foot-deep topsoil, Hondurans have built a G.N.P. that this year is expected to add up to \$460 million, 8% over last year. Bananas still provide \$38 million (or 40%) of the country's export earnings, but the highly successful Central American Common Market has stimulated a mushrooming cluster of small industries (paint, synthetic rubber, flour mills) on the Caribbean coast, where Mexican investors soon hope to build a \$12.5 million steel mill using native ore and charcoal.

• **PARAGUAY.** After eleven years under Dictator-President Alfredo Stroessner, the country's 1,900,000 people do not have democracy in the U.S. sense, or much hope of achieving it in the near future. But the regime is growing more benign, and Paraguayans are beginning to know a little prosperity. Attracted by rocklike stability (the guaraní at 126 to the dollar has not budged in five years), foreign investment has increased steadily. U.S. firms have spent more than \$25 million to build meat-packing plants, a bottled-gas facility, a hydroelectric station and an oil refinery. Last year, exports (mainly beef, lumber and cotton) earned \$50 million, 23% more than

1963, and this year may rise another 10%. Some \$27 million in *Alianza* aid has gone into agricultural, educational and communications projects, helped push 1,200 miles of paved roads into the rich but unexploited interior. Though the country's per capita G.N.P. is still one of the lowest in the hemisphere, it is expected to top last year's \$146 by 8%, and keep on improving.