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THE LESSON

N DEATH, the late John F. Kennedy well may accomplish something that he was never able to accomplish in life. Nor, as a matter of fact, was the late Franklin D. Roosevelt able to accomplish it, in life or in death.

To the peoples of Latin America, the Presidency of the United States has been a personal thing with them, and the President of the United States is definitely an individual personality.

The fact that behind the man was a system of continuance, that carries beyond the individual who holds the office, has always completely escaped them. They have never known this continuance of governmental system in their own lands.

Franklin Roosevelt was a great hero to the masses of Latin America because it was he who announced the now famous "Good Neighbor Policy." But the policy of friendship was linked with the man, not necessarily with the people and the Government of the entire United States.

So it was with John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The man had a tremendous personal following throughout most of the Americas. Consider the example of his visits at Caracas, Venezuela, and to Mexico City. The turnout of the crowds was a testimonial to the man—not to the policy which he enunciated or to the United States.

Roosevelt had been ailing for some time and his death was not unexpected. Also, it was a time of war, and the manner in which the Government of the United States changed hands—from Roosevelt to Harry Truman—had little impact in Latin America. The winning of the war so occupied the minds of men in those days that little attention was paid to the manner in which the United States Government operated.

But suddenly, dramatically, a shot from an assassin's rifle cut down John Kennedy. Well do the peoples of Latin America know that had this same tragedy occurred in their own country, utter chaos well could have resulted.

In the wake of that terrible attack upon Kennedy, confusion did result, but not chaos. And in less than two hours, Lyndon B. Johnson, the Vice President, as sworn in as the 36th President of the United states.

This confirmed that the system for the transition executive power was effective, workable. The esident died, but the Presidency—the executive wer—survived and was smoothly transferred to other. The people of the United States, from whom power is actually derived, stood in support of a system, regardless of their personal political ws. And such an effective system operates in any countries of the world other than in the steed States,

The death of John Kennedy may well change the stude of the people of Latin America towards the residency of the United States, and perhaps even awards their own executive heads of government.

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LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

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Contents

APTICIES

- Harridge S	
REPORT ON TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2
"TOGETHER WE ASPIRE "	4
"TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE" 12	2
TWO DIFFERENT ISLANDS21	
NEW FOOD FOR STARVING CHILDREN 27	
IOTES AND REVIEWS32	

THIS MONTH'S COVER: Fantastically costumed Trinidadians celebrate Carnival in Port-of-Spain. (Watercolor and ink drawing by Robert L. Pinson.)

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