

Policy on Latin Coups Set Forth by Mann

The United States yesterday set forth a code of action toward future Latin American coups and dictatorships.

In a commencement address at Notre Dame University in Indiana, Thomas C. Mann, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, made these points:

- The Organization of American States should itself set up a procedure for "collective action" against changes in Latin American governments where "repression, tyranny and brutality outrage the conscience of mankind." And if the OAS doesn't think its present charter adequate, "let us amend the charter."

- The United States, in the

future, will decide whether or not to recognize a government by coup on its individual merits.

- "Where the circumstances are such . . . as to 'outrage the conscience of America' we reserve our freedom to register our indignation by refusing to recognize or to continue our economic cooperation."

- But, so as not to "put ourselves in a doctrinaire straightjacket," the United States at times may decide to recognize a regime that has forcefully overthrown its predecessor. This, however, will not mean "equating" U.S. recognition with U.S. approval.

Cites Guatemala

Mann explained that if the United States had a fixed policy never to recognize Latin American coups it would have found itself greatly embarrassed in Guatemala in 1954. This was the time when a rightist military coup headed by Col. Carlos Castillo Armas succeeded in overthrowing the legitimately elected government of President Jacobo Arbenz, a man who turned out to be a "Marxist-Leninist," Mann said.

The State Department's top Latin American policy maker time and again yesterday emphasized the "need of 'collective action' and prerecognition 'consulting' among the OAS members.

"Unilateral U.S. interventions in the hemisphere have never succeeded, in themselves, in restoring constitutional government for any appreciable period of time," Mann declared. "And they have, in every case, left for our country a legacy of suspicion and resentment which has endured long after our interventions were abandoned as impracticable."

First Major Speech

Mann's remarks yesterday, the first major U.S. policy speech on Latin America made since he took office in early January, came after a number of public outcries on U.S. action and inaction toward Latin American coups.

The speech was released in Washington.

Last October, Mann's predecessor, Edwin M. Martin, declared that democracy could not be established by "fiat," thereby giving some the belief he was condoning the military coups that just then had taken place in both the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

Then reports circulated that Mann himself, in private talks with Latin diplomats and U.S. Ambassadors to Latin America, had indicated that this country had abandoned the idea of trying to foment democracy in the Southern Hemisphere.

Yesterday, Mann declared it was U.S. "firm policy to discourage any who conspire to overthrow constitutionally elected governments" and to "encourage the holding of free and fair elections" in countries where governments have been overthrown.