

Other Research Handicapped By Latin Ire Over Camelot

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tions too personal. But a good many others, their fears aroused by the Camelot furor, simply have been unwilling to accept Bode's assurances that his project is strictly academic in nature and has no connection with the Government.

"Says one Ambassador: 'Thirty minutes after they receive my answers, I can guarantee that they will be in file in Langley.'" (Langley, a Virginia suburb of Washington, is the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency.)

Interest Resurgent

His words are indicative of an attitude whose significance goes far beyond the merits or defects of Bode's particular project. For his study is only a drop in a much bigger pool.

This is the big resurgence of interest in Latin America that has coursed through the North American academic community during the past five years. Such distinguished universities as Columbia and Stanford have spawned complex research centers whose scholars annually swarm over Latin America studying everything from back country voodoo rites to the economic integration of the area.

All this has stirred up the resentment of many Latins, who cannot understand the emphasis being placed on their poverty, backwardness and political instability. In many countries, such research frequently has been impeded by attacks from nationalistic forces.

As a result, the academicians have put considerable effort into overcoming this hostility. Now, they feel, the fragile dialogue they had started to establish with Latin officials and scholars has been seriously shaken by Camelot.

So widespread is this feeling that some U.S. researchers have gone so far as to write open letters to Latin American newspapers, disassociating themselves from the government. But most think their only recourse is to cut back on their activities for the time being and hope that the newly aroused suspicions will die out.

Project Camelot is dead. But the ghost of the U.S. Army's abortive study of Chile's political stability continues to skulk about in ways that could seriously affect the future course of scholarly research on Latin America.

The tremors that Camelot has caused in diplomatic circles during the past month are now starting to show up on the seismographs of the academic community.

At universities and research institutions all over the United States, scholars have complained that the suspicions aroused by Camelot are spreading to their own private projects, making further progress on them difficult and, in some cases, impossible.

Furor Spread

Camelot was part of a proposed Army-sponsored series of studies on the factors influencing social and political change in underdeveloped areas. To this end, it was concerned with such questions as the prospects for revolution or military coup in Chile.

However, neither the U.S.

Ambassador there nor the Chilean government knew about it. And they were highly embarrassed when the Chilean press revealed the type of questions that Camelot researchers were asking.

To make matters worse, word soon got out that the Army was proposing to start a similar project in Brazil. Before the resultant furor was over, both Camelot and its Brazilian counterpart were unceremoniously shelved.

In addition, President Johnson announced last week that all Government-sponsored research with a bearing on foreign relations will henceforth require the approval of the Secretary of State before it can proceed.

This decision privately is being applauded by most academicians. But in the view of many, some irreparable damage already has been done.

Take the case of Kenneth A. Bode, a political science instructor at Michigan State University who has been spending the summer in Washington in an effort to learn what makes Latin American diplomats tick.

Diplomats Wary

To this end, Bode has circulated a detailed questionnaire asking the staffs of the various Latin embassies for information on their backgrounds, their political and social views and their ideas on how to solve hemispheric problems. Bode started out in hopes that the information might provide the basis for a Ph.D. dissertation.

Thus far, however, his questions have met with almost total silence. The response has been so meager that Bode now says he probably will have to abandon the project.

Part of his problem is due to the fact that many Latin diplomats consider his ques-