

T-P 10-4-68

U.S. Policymakers Admit Unhappiness About Peru

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. policymakers privately voiced unhappiness Thursday over the coup in Peru, but they expect the new military leadership to be pro-West and anti-Communist. And eventual recognition of the new regime seems likely.

On the record, the State Department held to a strict no comment on judging the pre-dawn Army overthrow of President Fernando Belaunde Terry.

Press officer Robert J. McCloskey indicated the United States would consult with its hemisphere allies on what posture to adopt toward the new regime—but would like Latin Americans to make the first move.

Off the record, U.S. authorities acknowledged the military takeover came as a setback to the goal of governmental change in Latin America through democratic means—a goal of U.S. policy and of the U.S.-supported Alliance for Progress hemisphere development program.

Coverly T. Oliver, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, had been citing the absence of a coup in Latin America since the June 1966 Argentine military takeover as a sign of growing democratic stability in the area.

Just what Washington will do next depends on developments.

Initial reports indicated the army headed by Gen. Juan Velasco had moved in after a political crisis enveloped the Belaunde government, fearing a breakdown of order and a possible coming to power of a group headed by Raul Haya DeLa Torre, regarded by the military as a leftist.

Velasco is rated here as friendly to the United States and is staunchly anti-Communist. However, U.S. officials viewed Belaunde as a moderate who was cooperating in the Alliance for Progress and with whom Washington could conduct busi-

ness in a coherent way.

After the latest previous coup in Peru, in 1962, the Kennedy administration tried to show U.S. disapproval by breaking off U.S. relations and aid. The experiment failed to dislodge the junta, and Washington wound up a month later by joining a number of other Latin American countries in recognizing the new Lima leadership.

This time U.S. policymakers are considering an alternative that seems to have had more success in the past:

After consulting with other Latin American governments, recognize the new regime as a fact of life but keep pressure on for a return to constitutional processes.

McCloskey noted that the military announced Thursday in Lima that they had taken full control, and that Peru would be adhering to its international agreements.

He estimated some 8,600 Americans, including tourists, are in the country. He had no reports of harm to them or to U.S. property there.

Under a resolution passed by the hemisphere foreign ministers in Rio de Janeiro in November 1965, the American republics are supposed to consult after a governmental overthrow to see whether the coup was fostered by foreign agents.

The Rio resolution recommended also consultations on whether the new regime proposes to hold elections in a reasonable period, whether it agrees to fulfill international obligations and whether it will comply with Alliance-for-Progress principles. It leaves it to each hemisphere government to make its own decision on recognition.

U.S. sources said such consultations may be held among the hemisphere foreign ministers now attending the U.N. General Assembly fall session in New York.