

Finch, on Eve of 6-Nation Trip, Attacks Earlier Latin Programs

NYTimes

By BENJAMIN WELLES NOV 11 1971

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—Robert H. Finch, counselor to President Nixon, charged here today that President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Good Neighbor policy and the Alliance for Progress under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson "lumped the Latin-American countries together as banana republics."

By contrast, Mr. Finch declared at a White House news conference, the Nixon Administration treats the Latin-American countries individually "as we find them."

Mr. Finch, a former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, is due to leave tomorrow on a two-week trip to represent President Nixon in six Latin-American countries.

"We don't have any litmus-paper tests as to whether they're democracies or republics or dictatorships," he said. "They make decisions on their economic and political systems for themselves."

Ex-officials Contest Charges

Four of the countries that Mr. Finch will visit — Peru, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil — have authoritarian governments, heavily influenced by the armed forces. The two others—Mexico and Honduras—have elected governments.

Former officials closely associated with the Roosevelt Good Neighbor policy or with the Alliance for Progress assailed Mr. Finch's charges.

Philip W. Bonsal, a specialist in Latin-American affairs who was United States Ambassador to Cuba when the Castro regime seized power, described the Good Neighbor policy as "recognition of the sovereign equality of all Latin-American countries and a renunciation of the right of intervention in their affairs."

Sol M. Linowitz, who was representative to the Organization of American States under President Johnson, declared that "anyone familiar with Latin America should realize that the Alliance for Progress

was not a United States program but a genuine partnership between the United States and Latin America for economic and social development."

"During its last 10 years, for instance, Latin America itself contributed about 90 per cent of the funds for the Alliance goals," Mr. Linowitz said in an interview.

Alliance Is Defended

In the decade from the inception of the Alliance in 1961, experts here said, the United States contributed more than \$11-billion and the Latin countries more than \$90-billion to the joint development goals of the program.

Asked whether the United States had treated all Latin-American nations together as "banana republics," Thomas C. Mann, former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs and coordinator of the Alliance for Progress, commented in a telephone interview:

"Certainly not. It was an endeavor to treat them as the law provided as equals of the United States and as entitled to consideration."

William D. Rogers, a coordinator of the Alliance during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, termed Mr. Finch's statement "preposterous" and a "discouraging beginning for his trip."

"Evidently he intends to milk that trip for domestic political purposes and to make up for the Nixon policy vacuum by saying whatever ridiculous things pop into his head about earlier programs," Mr. Rogers said.

"This is hardly likely to create a healthy impression in Latin America."

Mr. Finch said that he would not announce the lifting of President Nixon's 10 per cent import surcharge during his trip. Nor, he said, would he attempt to express the Administration's views on the expropriation of private United States assets during his discussions with Latin heads of state.