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RADIO LIBERTY

POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

LATIN AMERICA

(This paper replaces all previous policies on Latin America and Cuba.)

Situation and Assumptions:

The countries of Latin America are experiencing stresses and strains which inevitably accompany the rise of less developed countries to political and economic maturity. The impatience of many peoples in the area with evolutionary, long-range solutions to critical economic problems is complicated by (1) increasing Communist activity throughout Latin America, and (2) the legacy of dependence on the United States by the Latin American nations during their formative years. While the Latin American peoples have generally shown increased impatience with corrupt and dictatorial regimes, some have also tended to over-assert their independence toward the United States and blame the United States for their problems. On the other hand, several countries such as Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile are in fact solving their problems, with assistance from the United States, in a democratic manner and are preserving individual liberties. They are achieving progress in spite of disruptive efforts of significant communist organizations.

While the U.S. has practiced cooperation, restraint and consideration for its neighbors to the south, representatives of the Sino-Soviet Bloc and local Communists have stepped up their overt and clandestine activities to exploit, for their own ends, the unrest and rapid changes which the area is undergoing. The future progress of Latin America will depend on how effectively stable political institutions are developed and economic backwardness overcome by representative governments while international cooperation and order are maintained by expanded activities of such organizations as the Organization of American States.

Radio Liberty's Objectives:

1. To counter Soviet ideology and propaganda by presenting the basic issue in Latin America as that of freedom vs. totalitarianism rather than "national liberation struggle against colonialism."
2. To correct Communist distortion of the role of the United States in Latin America.
3. To demonstrate that increased Sino-Soviet Bloc activity in Latin America is aimed at ultimate subjugation of Latin American peoples to Communist dictatorship instead of meeting their just aspirations for personal and political freedom and economic betterment.

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