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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *WJ*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5237

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INFORMATION

December 17, 1974 *WJ*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: Report of the Commission on U.S. - Latin American Relations

Attached is a copy of the Report by the Commission on U.S. - Latin American Relations published October 29, which you asked be returned for your reading. There follows a short summary of the Report's findings and recommendations for your convenience.

The Commission was headed by Sol Linowitz and included 22 other distinguished former government officials and business and academic leaders, most of whom have had long experience with Latin America. A number of consultants were also asked to prepare papers for the Commission. Though some of them have in the past been critical of U.S. policy in Latin America, the Report itself is not recriminating in tone. For the most part, it is a thoughtful analysis and, while there are negative elements, contains a number of positive and even imaginative recommendations. With some exceptions, the findings and recommendations follow closely the approach which we adopted in our "New Dialogue" with Latin America. The Commission's intent was to provide support for the constructive direction in which our Latin American policy is moving.

The Report calls for modification of our approach to Latin America as a result of the changes in world conditions which followed from the evolution of confrontation into detente between the great powers and from the emergence of new economic and technological world problems. It notes, however, that nationalism and national consciousness remain at the heart of our relations with the countries of the Hemisphere.

The Commission calls on the U.S. to frame its policies in global rather than hemispheric terms. It asks that the government eliminate patronizing attitudes and discriminatory policies and legislation which impose specific restrictions or penalties on Latin America. It recommends a more vigorous opposition to abuses of human rights and suggests that we give highest priority to working out mutually beneficial economic relations in the fields of investment, trade, transfer of technology, and access to U.S. markets.

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Two of the 33 recommendations caught the attention of the press when the Report was issued. One related to the Commission's recommendation that covert U.S. involvement in internal affairs of other countries was "indefensible and should be ended." The other related to U.S. policy towards Cuba and included the suggestion that the U.S. abandon the policy of isolating Cuba and take the initiative to seek more normal relations with Cuba, unilaterally revoking regulations restricting trade. This recommendation, of course, was written before the OAS Quito Conference, which the Commission had expected would lift obligatory sanctions on trade with Cuba.

Other recommendations contained in the Report include a call for the signing and ratification of a new Panama Canal Treaty based on the Statement of Principles agreed upon between the U.S. and Panama last February; the termination of U.S. grant Military Assistance Programs and phasing out of Military Assistance Groups; the transfer of the Southern Command from Panama to the Continental U.S.; repeat of automatic economic sanctions like the Hickenlooper and Gonzalez Amendments; expansion of U.S. emergency immigration program for political refugees; pressure by the U.S. to investigate reported violations of human rights by international commissions, whose findings should be considered in setting the tone for our bilateral relations; abandonment by the U.S. of its veto on Inter-American Development Bank loans without lowering the level of our contribution; establishment of an international endowment for cultural exchange; opening of the U.S. market to imports from Latin America by liberalizing trade policies and at the same time adopting a program of adjustment assistance for sectors of the domestic economy which might be hurt; examining of ways to limit fluctuations in commodity prices; and establishment of a publicly funded foundation to cooperate with Latin American institutions in developing scientific and technological capabilities.

**Attachment:**

"The Americas In A Changing World"-- Report by The  
Commission on United States-Latin American Relations