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8. For Your Information:

The Department of State yesterday issued a statement regarding a Latin American protest over the restrictive provisions of the trade bill and said that the Administration would work with the Congress to remove some of the rigid requirements of that bill.

1/8/75

DOS statement reflects the President's views.

4/15/75

KISSINGER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

Secretary Kissinger's trip April 23-27, to three South American countries was announced at noon ^{April 14} today in Washington, Buenos Aires, Brasilia and Caracas. Text of Department announcement follows:

"In response to invitations he has received, Secretary Kissinger will visit three east coast South American countries, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela -- from April 23 to 27. The press of world events requires the Secretary to spend as much time as possible in Washington, and has forced a curtailment of his original plan, which had also included visits to two west coast countries -- Chile and Peru. The Secretary very much looks forward to visiting the west coast of South America later in the year.

"The Secretary plans to meet with the Foreign Ministers of the three countries and with other key officials of their governments. He is also expected to be received by the chiefs of state of the three countries, President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron of Argentina, President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil and President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela."

Queries in press briefing as to whether trip will include stop in Rio, Department press office responded that itinerary calls for visits to Buenos Aires, Brasilia and Caracas only.

Following additional guidance may be used on "only if asked" basis:

Q: What about events in Cambodia and Vietnam? Aren't they going to require the Secretary's attention in this period?

A: As was announced, it is because of the world situation that the trip will be an abbreviated one despite the Secretary's desire for a more extended visit.

Our Latin American relations are an important part of our foreign policy. His speech in Houston was in anticipation of the trip. And, in preparation for this trip, Assistant Secretary Rogers

4/15/75

visited South America last month for preliminary talks. In addition, it will be an opportunity for the Secretary to exchange views on his Houston proposals and to discuss other issues prior to the OAS General Assembly early next month.

Q: Is Cuba one of these issues?

A: The Secretary will be consulting with the Latin Americans on their initiatives regarding sanctions.

Q: What other issues are likely to be discussed?

A: The Trade Act and the status of the Panama Canal.

Q: Will Mrs. Kissinger accompany the Secretary?

A: No.

Q: Who else will be in the Secretary's party?

A: I cannot give you now the make-up of the delegation except to say that Assistant Secretary Rogers from the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, will accompany the Secretary.

Q: Is there any connection between his decision not to go to Chile and the issue of human rights relative to that country?

A: As I have said, the press of world events requires the Secretary to spend as much time as possible in Washington. The Secretary hopes to make a second trip later in the year.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ON POSTPONEMENT OF SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP
EDT,
(FOR RELEASE AT 10 P.M.,/APRIL 21, 1975.)

Events in Indochina are unfolding with such unexpected speed that the President has asked me to stay in Washington in the days just ahead. It is with great reluctance, and even greater personal regret, that I must therefore postpone my trip to South America scheduled for later this week.

I have communicated with the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela to inform them of this decision and of my determination to visit South America at a later date.

The forging of strengthened ties with our neighbors in this Hemisphere is a cardinal objective of our foreign policy. The aspirations of Latin America and the United States are indissolubly linked, and are of significance for the rest of the world.

For these reasons, I particularly regret the postponement of my South American trip under these circumstances. And I look forward to working with my colleagues at the OAS General Assembly here in Washington next month, where we will have another opportunity to discuss our common goals.

April 22, 1975

Q. Now that Secretary Kissinger has postponed his trip to Latin America, how will this cancellation affect our relations with Latin America?

A. The President asked Secretary Kissinger to postpone his plans to visit three countries of Latin America later this week. Because of the critical situation in Southeast Asia, he felt that it would be inadvisable for him to be away from Washington at this particular time. In view of the great importance we attach to our relations with Latin America, however, he has asked that the Secretary give high priority to rescheduling the trip in the not too distant future and is addressing letters to the three Presidents expressing his regret over any inconvenience which this unavoidable change in plans may have caused.

FOX Hon Nelson Texas

April 9, 1976

US RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

Q: How would you characterize our relations with Mexico and with the other Latin American countries and what can we do to improve them?

A: I think the direction of our relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is very positive. As you know, we have a long tradition of close and cooperative relations with the nations of this hemisphere. That is not to say there are not problems, or periodic differences between us.

In the recent past we have made significant progress in eliminating some longstanding problems -- for example, the salinity problem with Mexico and matters concerning expropriation. We are continuing to work toward resolution of remaining problems and we are making a special effort to consult fully with our friends in this hemisphere on a full range of social, political, and economic issues. A number of suggestions for improvement in our trade and financial relationships which we offered at the Special Session of the United Nations last September, as an example, are particularly applicable to Latin America.

Secretary Kissinger visited Latin America in February,

in the interest of strengthening and reaffirming our long standing good relations while working to overcome our differences.

I believe that a frank and constructive basis of communication has been established in our relations in the hemisphere. I am confident it will serve as the foundation for a positive and cooperative relationship which will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

BRAZINSKAS CASE

Q: Will the U.S. grant political asylum to the Lithuanian hijackers?

A: This question should be addressed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

F.Y.I. This case is complicated by the fact that the two people have entered the U.S. illegally. State Department and INS have certain legal procedures to recommend and provide for asylum in cases where people's lives would be endangered if they were not granted asylum. The President is aware of, but has not been involved in, this case.

F.Y.I. Who are the Brazinskas?

Prana and Algirdas Brazinskas, father and son, hijacked a Soviet airliner and forced its landing in Turkey in October 1970. In the course of the hijacking, they shot and killed a Soviet stewardess and wounded other crew members. On landing in Turkey, they requested asylum of the Turkish Government. They were subsequently tried and convicted of hijacking and manslaughter. Their sentences were reduced by a combination of prison and amnesty. Until their departure to Italy in July, the Brazinskas had been living, since May 1974, in a refugee camp about 200 miles from Ankara.

The decision which allowed them to leave Turkey was made by the Turkish Government in accordance with Turkish judicial procedures.

KISSINGER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

Q: Mr. President, Secretary Kissinger is traveling to Latin America at a time when Cuban troops are heavily involved in Angola. Is one of the purposes of the visit to consolidate OAS support against the Cuban Government and to urge a freeze on any progress toward normalization of relations with Cuba?

A: We share with our Latin American neighbors similar histories and backgrounds and it is only natural that we should want to exchange views with them on our common hemispheric problems. Our economic backgrounds on the other hand have been quite different so it is equally important that we review US-Latin American relations, and the relationship of the Western Hemisphere in an interdependent world in which the regional concerns of some of the countries are now competing with the interests in the developing world in general. The primary purpose of Secretary Kissinger's trip is to reaffirm the importance we attach to our relationship with Latin America and to continue to strengthen that relationship. In addition, the Secretary will be stopping in Guatemala to offer our continued assistance to that disaster-stricken area. It is not the purpose of this trip to generate a crusade against Cuba. At the same time, it is clear that any evolution towards our normalization of Cuba has been severely set back in view of that government's actions in Puerto Rico and its involvement in Angola.

THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

Q. In view of the critical situations in Vietnam and the Middle East, is this an appropriate time for the Secretary of State to be traveling to Latin America?

A. Secretary Kissinger will visit three countries over a five day period from April 23 through the 27th. The press of world events forced a curtailment of an original plan for a longer trip to Latin America, a visit that has been planned and postponed on a number of previous occasions. We consider the Secretary's trip a demonstration of the importance we attach to our relations with Latin America where we have such a long tie of friendship and cooperation.

ITEMS FOR RESPONSE TO QUERY

3. Q: What is the President's reaction to the report of a Commission on U. S. - Latin American Relations made public yesterday by its chairman, Sel Linowitz?

A: Mr. Linowitz as chairman of the Commission sent a copy of the report to the President on Monday. In response the President sent a message to Mr. Linowitz thanking him for the report and noting that he was looking forward to reviewing it. The President also asked Secretary Kissinger to meet with Mr. Linowitz and members of his Commission to review the findings and recommendations of the report. The President has not had an opportunity to read the report or review any of the recommendations of the report.

See attached cable.