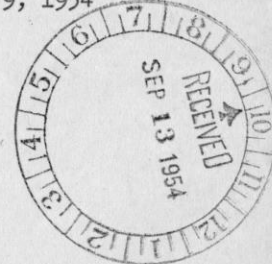


September 9, 1954

MEMORANDUM



To : Under-Secretary of State
From : Emil J. Sady *EJS*
Subject : Puerto Rico's role in improving U.S.-Latin American relations.

In accordance with your request, the following comments are presented on the memorandum dated July 23, 1954 on the above-mentioned subject:

1. Reference might be made to the 30,000,000 Indians in Latin America. Economic and social development in countries with large Indian populations (e.g. Guatemala, Ecuador, and Perú) is rendered more difficult by the necessity of bridging the cultural gap between the governing group and the Indians. Puerto Rico's Division of Community Education has developed techniques for training community leaders and stimulating self-help activities. These techniques are adaptable to Indian communities and could serve to broaden the base of economic and social programs.

2. Part of the misunderstanding between the United States and Latin America stems from the misunderstanding between Latin America and the European Nations over the latter's territorial interests in the Western Hemisphere. Some of the bitterness over "European colonialism" rubs off on the United States because it is associated with

these powers on the Caribbean Commission. A few Latin American nations oppose "European colonialism" because of conflicting territorial claims or aspirations. The aggressiveness of these few nations plus ignorance as to the attitude of the people in these territories toward their respective metropolises has caused Latin American nations to oppose as a bloc any idea that a continuing relationship between European powers and their Caribbean territories might accord with the desires and interests of the peoples concerned. The fact is that most of these territories are enjoying a large measure of self-government and desire to retain a continuing link with their respective metropolises. While little can be done to reconcile conflicting territorial claims, much can be done to foster greater understanding and mutual assistance between Latin American nations generally and the Caribbean territories. Puerto Rico can assume leadership in this field. It can do so by exploring with the State Department not only the possibility of broadening membership on the Caribbean Commission to include independent nations in or bordering on the Caribbean but also other means of fostering good will between these geographic neighbors who are strangers to one another.

3. The suggestion that Puerto Rico offer its facilities to meet the technical assistance needs of Guatemala is an excellent one. There might be objections both in Guatemala and in FOA to having the Puerto Rican Government itself carry out a large technical assistance program in

Guatemala. The objective might be more readily accomplished by having the University of Puerto Rico undertake to provide the desired assistance under contract with FOA, or under a joint agreement with FOA and the University of Guatemala, or the Government of Guatemala. FOA is funneling an increasing proportion of its technical assistance through American Universities. For example, the University of Maryland recently received 900,000 to carry out a development program in Surinam. An internal arrangement could be worked out by which the University could draw upon P.R. government specialists on a reimbursable basis for work in Guatemala.