

Latin America. Concerning title IV, the act specified that "military assistance may be furnished to the other American Republics only in accordance with defense plans which * * * require the recipient nations to participate in missions important to the defense of the Western Hemisphere."⁵

Even before the Mutual Security Act was passed, the Truman administration had already acted to secure the cooperation of Latin America in the cold war. Following the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, a consultative meeting of American foreign ministers took place in Washington in March and April of 1951. Here the President requested that the American Republics support the war effort in Korea with their combined military strength, and that they plan a common program for resistance to the Communist threat. The response was a resolution recommending that the American Republics—

orient their military preparation in such a way that through self-help and mutual aid * * * they can without prejudice to their individual self-defense and their internal security: (a) increase those of their resources and strengthen those of their armed forces best adapted to the collective defense, and maintain those armed forces in such status that they can be promptly available for the defense of the Continent; and (b) cooperate with each other, in military matters, in order to develop the collective strength of the Continent necessary to combat aggression against any of them.⁶

To support this combined effort, the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, Edward G. Miller, Jr., appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in July 1951, requested \$40 million of mutual security funds for a new program of military aid to Latin America. Such assistance, he asserted, would help overcome limitations on the ability of Latin America to contribute to hemisphere defense. In addition, Mr. Miller requested, as an integral part of the overall mutual security program for Latin America, \$22 million for technical assistance.⁷ This \$62 million program was comparatively modest, actually only three-fourths of 1 percent of the total requested in the mutual security appropriations bill for 1951.

Gen. Charles L. Bolte, Chairman of the IADB, supported the request for military aid to Latin America, arguing that such assistance would relieve U.S. troops of the burden of defending the hemisphere in the event of war. He indicated that the IADB was planning specific defense tasks for each nation to assume in strategic areas. To help protect the critical Panama Canal area, for example, the IADB had recommended that the adjacent countries contribute an anti-aircraft battalion. General Bolte indicated that though the grant aid would help maintain modern standards in Latin America's armed forces, the United States expected that most of its military shipments to Latin America would continue, as in the past, to be on a reimbursable basis.⁸ Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall tied the military aid program to the problem of future availability of Latin America's strategic resources, as well as to the need to help the Latin American republics play a more active role in hemisphere defense.⁹

⁵ Sec. 105, Mutual Security Act of 1951.

⁶ U.S. Department of State, Bulletin, Apr. 9, 1951, pp. 566-567.

⁷ United States, 82d Cong., 1st sess., House, Foreign Affairs Committee, hearings on MSA for 1951 (Washington, 1951), pp. 1080-1082.

⁸ Ibid., pp. 1084-1089.

⁹ United States, 82d Cong., 1st sess., Senate, Foreign Relations Committee, hearings on MSA for 1951 (Washington, 1951), p. 38.