

Congress having appropriated \$38 million for Latin American military aid for 1951, negotiations were opened with eight countries—Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Cuba. In preliminary discussions, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay balked at U.S. insistence upon limitation of trade with the Soviet bloc. They also were unwilling to grant the United States exclusive access to their strategic resources. Ultimately, however, seven countries, all except Mexico, made formal requests for military aid from the United States.¹⁰ With U.S. advice the estimated needs of each country were calculated with reference to its potential contribution to hemisphere defense, its ability to supply part of its own requirements, and its capacity for effectively utilizing and maintaining various types of military equipment. The programs were then subjected to review by the Defense Department, the State Department, and Representatives of the Congress prior to formal signing of the agreements.¹¹

The first Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement with a Latin American country was concluded with Ecuador on January 20, 1952. Under its terms the U.S. Government agreed "to make available * * * equipment, materials, services, and other military assistance designed to promote the defense and maintain the peace of the Western Hemisphere." In return Ecuador promised to make effective and exclusive use of this assistance for implementing defense plans, to build up and maintain its own defensive capacities, "to facilitate the production and transfer * * * of * * * strategic materials required by the United States," and to cooperate with the United States in limiting its trade with the Soviet bloc.¹² Before the year was out similar pacts had been signed with Cuba, Colombia, Peru, and Chile.

To expand the program, the administration, in the mutual security bill for 1952, asked Congress for an additional \$62 million for Latin American military aid. The continuing program resulted in MDA pacts with Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay during 1953, with Nicaragua and Honduras during 1954, and with Haiti and Guatemala during 1955. By the end of fiscal 1958, the 12 countries included in the program had received about \$317 million in grants for military aid.

Military assistance program shipments to Latin America¹

[Fiscal years—Figures in millions of dollars]

1952	0.2	1956	21.2
1953	65.2	1957	32.0
1954	37.9	1958	56.8
1955	36.9	1959	67.0

¹ United States, 86th Cong., 1st sess., House, Committee on Foreign Affairs, "Staff Memorandum on Background Material in Mutual Security Program for Fiscal 1960" (committee print, Washington, 1959), p. 27; United States, President, "The MSP for Fiscal 1960" (Washington, 1959), p. 132.

In addition, these 12 countries and seven others were obtaining about \$20 million worth of military equipment annually under the reimbursable provisions of the Mutual Security Act.¹³

¹⁰ Council on Foreign Relations, "The United States in World Affairs," 1952 (New York, 1953), p. 2.

¹¹ United States, 84th Cong., 1st sess., Senate, Special Committee To Study the Foreign Aid Program, "The Military Assistance Program" (Committee Print No. 10, Washington, 1957), pp. 100-102.

¹² U.S. Department of State, Bulletin, Mar. 3, 1952, pp. 336-338.

¹³ United States, 85th Cong., 1st sess., Senate, Committee on Foreign Relations, Subcommittee on Disarmament, "Control and Reduction of Armaments: Disarmament and Security in Latin America" (staff study No. 7, Washington, 1957), p. 15.