

tries. In 1949, it signed a convention with Costa Rica to create a joint commission to investigate the cases and make recommendations. This agency became the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in 1950. It has a small operating budget; and Peru, Ecuador, Panama, and Mexico showed interest in the project, but only Panama joined. The other countries did not join because they claimed the United States failed to carry out a commitment made to Costa Rica under the treaty. As principal beneficiary of the tuna industry, the United States subscribed to practically all expenses of the Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to maintain tuna and tuna-bait population that would permit maximum sustained catches year by year. The Commission has an independent staff and publishes its findings in Spanish and in English.

Instead of collaborating with the Commission, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador formed, in 1952, a group of their own to assert their claims over extensive territorial waters and formulate policy.

6. *The United Nations*

During the course of the last war, Latin America was interested in a postwar organization. In 1942, at the Rio Meeting of Foreign Ministers, the Juridical Committee was instructed to make a study of the matter. The recommendations of the Committee constituted the background of the policies stressed later in San Francisco.

When the Latin American countries were not invited to the Dumbarton Oaks discussion, they deeply resented their exclusion as well as the secrecy of the meetings. They were aware of the struggle within the State Department of the United States, between Sumner Welles, who advocated regionalism, and Cordell Hull, who advocated the global approach. They feared for the future of the inter-American system. Secretary Stettinius' efforts to placate them at a series of conferences held in Washington was considered a tardy gesture.

At the Inter-American Conference held at Mexico City in 1945, the Dumbarton Oaks proposals were discussed and endorsed, with some modifications. There, Argentina was invited to join the other American states in the war effort, and the Argentine Government declared war on the Axis Powers on April 4. The Argentine participation provided for a common bloc of American States in the forthcoming conference at San Francisco. Nevertheless, because of Argentina's war record in favor of the Axis, the U.S. policy of inviting Argentina was criticized by several Latin American countries. It seemed to them that the United States was following a policy of expediency and departing from the ideologies maintained during the course of the war.

At San Francisco the Latin American Republics struggled against the privileged position of the Big Five in the Security Council, and especially against the veto. In this they were consistent with their traditional stand maintained in the League of Nations. (See below, pt. V.) When they failed in their efforts, they tried to get more representation for themselves in the Council and to give more power to the General Assembly. Their criticism of the power of the Big Five was in harmony with the equally traditional principle of juridical equality of all nations. Latin American emphasis on the political role of the General Assembly anticipated the philosophy endorsed