

Trusteeship Council led a unanimously approved resolution to end discrimination in all dependent territories. On another occasion, Brazil joined Syria in a complaint that the Union of South Africa had failed to promote the political advancement of the natives.

Representation of China in the U.N. is for Latin America, as well as for the rest of the world, a very important problem. In 1949, when the Soviet Union asked for the expulsion of the Nationalist delegate, Council members (Cuba and Ecuador) voted against the motion. Red China's intervention in Korea made many Latin American countries take a dim view of the possibility of immediate acceptance of the People's Republic in the U.N. However, the general feeling in Latin America is that sooner or later Red China will have to be admitted. This is in harmony with their traditional belief in the universality of membership. When, in 1950, India proposed that Communist China be seated, 17 Latin American countries voted "no," with Argentina, Ecuador, and Guatemala abstaining. On the most recent vote, in 1959, on the question of considering the Chinese representation issue, the United States was supported by all the Latin American countries except Cuba, which abstained.

During the British-Iranian oil dispute, Ecuador opposed U.N. intervention on the ground that Iran had the sovereign right to nationalize the oil industry. The right of expropriation is a principle of general international law which has always been supported by the Latin American Republics.

More recent aspects of the Middle East problem have also had repercussions in Latin America. During the Suez crisis, Panama protested because she was not invited to the London Conference and accepted an invitation to the Nasser-sponsored meeting. Here she supported Egypt by ordering all Panamanian ships to pay toll directly to the Nasser government. Venezuela, at an international petroleum conference held at Cairo in 1959, suggested that the Arab countries curtail production and increase their prices. Her motive was to make Venezuelan oil competitive with lower cost Middle East crudes.

3. Africa as a competing source of commodity production

The competitive nature of the Latin American and African economies, particularly in production of such export crops as coffee, cotton, sugar, and cereals, has produced economic conflicts between the two areas. Because Brazil, Colombia, and several Central American Republics depend so heavily upon coffee exports, increases in the lower cost African production of this commodity injures their economies. For example, all these countries felt the impact of the United Kingdom's development projects in African colonies after 1949. By 1951, several Latin American coffee-producing countries were complaining that the growing competition from Africa was indirectly the fault of the United States because Marshall plan aid had enabled European countries to develop export agriculture in their African colonies.

African coffee production rose from 1½ million bags in 1933 to 5 million in 1951. By 1955 Africa was producing 15 percent of the world's coffee. Although the quality was not as good as that of Latin America, the price was lower. Accordingly, the product began to gain favor, especially in European markets.