

cultural and religious ties with Central America; the Catholics in particular are suspicious of Protestant-oriented institutions, such as the University College of the West Indies.

The Federation will not affect the inter-American system in any significant way within the foreseeable future. The OAS members look favorably upon the association of British colonies in the Caribbean, particularly because they believe this a step in the direction of independence. If the Federation succeeds in achieving sovereignty, however, it will in all probability prefer to maintain its ties with the British Commonwealth, as Canada has done, rather than associate with the OAS.

Guatemala and Argentina will undoubtedly continue agitating for the recovery of the colonies they consider their own. All Latin American republics will probably continue to favor increased self-government and ultimate independence for the European possessions.

The present position of the United States vis-a-vis the colonialism issue is an embarrassing one. Since the principle of self-determination was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson, the United States had always defended the right of the people to decide their own political status. It is an historical irony that because of the cold war and the need for support from her European allies, the United States is now cautious and refuses to take a strong anticolonialist stand. So long as we refuse to do so, the Soviet Union will exploit the issue and Latin America will oppose our present stand.