despite high population growth rates that range from about 3 to 4 percent, the Central American Common Market countries were able to attain the per capita growth standard of 2.5 percent set by the Alliance for Progress in the Charter of Punta del Este.

What do these cold statistics mean in human terms? Stretching from downtown San Salvador to the airport runs what is called the miracle mile, actually 5 miles. I am told that 2 years ago there was nothing bordering this road but weed patches and slum towns. Today, on both sides of the avenue, there are dozens and dozens of new buildings housing small industries and businesses. Many bear familiar U.S. names, attesting to the ability of the Common Market to attract investments vital to growth. These new factories are producing dacron and rayon fabrics for men's trousers, phonograph records, paper bags, batteries, copper wire, and electric light bulbs.

Similarly, in Guatemala, cotton textiles, paint, kitchen stoves, automobile tires, spark plugs, and glass containers are now manufactured and sold throughout Central America. Nicaragua has underway a plant to produce refrigerators, as well as factories to assemble radios, phonographs, and TV sets for the Central American market. Costa Rica is now assembling automobiles. In Honduras, a new textile mill began to operate late in 1965, and cigars, fibre glass chairs and desks, and boots and shoes are being manufactured for sale throughout the region.

All this new activity spells employment for the Central American people. With steady employment come salaries, creating purchasing power which in turn sparks the establishment of new industries. As the economies expand and more people find remunerative work, there is social mobility. No longer are men and women destined by birth to eke out pitiful livings. Children can attend school with reasonable expectations of finding employment commensurate with their educational level and acquired skills.

Indeed, in areas of Central America previously characterized by a huge chasm between the few fortunate families and masses of peasants, a middle class is rapidly developing. The rise of this middle class is the best guarantee against Communist agitators and other demagogs.

Most observers of the Central American Common Market become eloquent when discussing its achievements. An "economic miracle" and an "economic wonder" are among the most frequently heard paeans. Certainly, in its first 5 years, the Central American Common Market has been a phenomenal success.

Yet able Central Americans who run the Common Market institutions insist that the five countries must vest an increasing amount of authority in regional organizations if the market's economic gains are to be solidified. I met with Pedro Abelardo Delgado, the dynamic Salvadoran who heads the Common Market's Permanent Secretariat (SIECA) at SIECA's headquarters in Guatemala City. Dr. Delgado emphasized a theme that I was to hear repeatedly: that the Central American countries must strive constantly to expand the scope of their integrated activities.

In fact, the economic integration movement is much more comprehensive than the creation of a common internal market. For example, the Common Market countries have established a regional development bank to assist in financing projects which will spur economic integration. The Central American Bank for Integration (CABEI)