President Jose Maria Lemus of El Salvador with President Eisenhower in Washington in 1958. After that the U.S. position "completely changed" and it adopted a position of increasingly vigorous support for the movement.

As it happened, they said, the then Minister of Economy of El Salvador, Alfonso Rochac, had accompanied President Lemus to Washington. During the visit, Mr. Rochac saw Thomas Mann, then Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs. They were close friends, Mr. Mann having been Ambassador to El Salvador. Mr. Mann was reported to have asked Mr. Rochac:

"Why is the Common Market not working? We consider it a great thing and want it to work. What can we do for it? We're willing to help in any way we can."

Mr. Rochac was said to have explained that the main impediment was that the movement had reached an impasse: the countries were unwilling to add commodities to the positive list and unwilling to face competition. Support, he was reported as adding, was needed to get the movement moving again.

Mr. Mann's reply was that "a real Common Market" should be created. He was said to have advanced the suggestion that instead of negotiating on each item for placement on the positive list, barriers be reduced on all commodities with some common exceptions.

Shortly afterward, two State Department specialists arrived in Central America to consider prospects for helping the movement to advance. They were Ambassador Harry Turkel, long active in Latin American affairs, and Isaiah Frank, who had much experience with the European Common Market. George Blowers, Vice President of the Export-Import Bank, also visited the area.

During this period of discussion, the idea arose among the Central Americans and Washington officials that if the movement were to go forward "full blast" marginal industries would suffer and means should be provided for modernization of plants and working capital to compete. The suggestion for a Central American bank or fund emerged in this period and Mr. Mann was said to have declared that the United States was ready to contribute to this fund or bank. The visits are credited by these Central Americans to have inspired the Tripartite Treaty of Economic Association in 1960 by Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. This treaty went far toward establishing free trade since it adopted a "negative list," meaning that all items produced should move freely except those on that list.

Following this initial effort, the State Department in 1961 assigned Arthur W. Marget, an economist of broad experience in government and academic life, to Central America to explore further possibilities of U.S. assistance. Dr. Marget was an exponent of the Central American idea while he was with the Federal Reserve System in Washington and after he had visited the area in 1957. He resigned from his post as director of the System's Division of International Revenue to go to Central America.

FORMATION OF ROCAP

In the spring of 1962, on the suggestion of Dr. Marget that his duties be amplified and taken over by a group of specialists in view of his impending retirement, the State Department's Agency for International Development set up a group of experts to help the Central American organizations in their planning. With the Alliance for Progress in full swing, the State Department established in July of that year a special advisory mission whose objective was to help advance the region's economic and social integration and development by supporting the efforts of organizations which Central Americans themselves have formed for these purposes. The first members of the mission began activities in August of 1962 and, shortly afterward, on September 5, Dr. Marget died of heart failure at a Guatemala City conference of U.S. officials while discussing integration. He is buried in Guatemala. His home in Antigua, where he and his wife had planned to retire in 1963, has become the property of SIECA and is named the Marget Memorial Libary and Conference Center as an indication of the esteem in which he was held by Central Americans.

This mission, fulfilling the letter and spirit of the Alliance, is the regional office for Central America and Panama, known by the initial letters of its name as ROCAP. It is now staffed by approximately 50 American personnel, drawn from the Departments of State (Foreign Service and AID officers), Defense (Geodetic Survey), Commerce (Bureau of the Census). Personnel drawn from the Departments of State, Commerce, Defense, Labor, and Agriculture and others, include specialists in agriculture, customs, census, public health, education, transportation, engineering, law, credit unions, and cooperatives. At present, ROCAP is headed