

their potential. More than 10 years ago a perceptive foreign service officer gave two reasons why BNC's were failing to do the job he thought they could do: (1) The shortages of American personnel; and (2) the financial pressures which obliged the centers to concentrate on English teaching programs at the expense of other equally important activities. In 1962 an examiner's report to the Bureau of the Budget observed that the following obstacles contributed to the unfulfilled potential of the BNC's: (1) Inadequate buildings ("In short, the centers were not inviting. They obviously tell the local population that the United States is not much interested in its cultural center"), (2) self-financing philosophy ("The centers often have trouble enough supporting their English language activities without undertaking, even relatively inexpensive, additional cultural activities"), and (3) insufficient American staffing.

These problems exist to this day despite giant steps which have been taken in the very recent past to correct them. Binational centers continue to limp along with a shortage of personnel (particularly in American teachers), dingy and inadequate buildings, and the lack of sufficient program funds.

*Binational center fact sheet (1965-66)*

|                                                        | Total       | Latin America |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number of binational centers class A and B (1966)..... | 132         | 112           |
| Number of countries.....                               | 29          | 19            |
| Dues paying members.....                               | 42,456      | 32,193        |
| Cumulative class registration.....                     | 279,136     | 211,639       |
| Public program attendance.....                         | 3,378,113   | 2,139,758     |
| Volumes in libraries.....                              | 598,413     | 405,813       |
| Local staff.....                                       | 5,339       | 3,608         |
| U.S. Grantees and FSS personnel.....                   | 130         | 101           |
| Full-time teachers.....                                | 640         | -----         |
| Full-time U.S. teachers.....                           | 412         | -----         |
| Part-time teachers.....                                | 2,448       | -----         |
| Part-time U.S. teachers.....                           | 873         | -----         |
| Expenditures.....                                      | \$7,115,639 | \$4,993,816   |
| Local income.....                                      | \$7,095,064 | \$5,175,332   |
| USIA cash grants.....                                  | \$518,420   | \$335,644     |
| USIA personnel costs.....                              | \$1,980,258 | \$1,502,456   |
| USIA materials grants.....                             | \$234,517   | \$169,790     |
| Total USIA support.....                                | \$2,722,619 | \$2,007,890   |
| USIA support as percent of costs.....                  | 28          | 28            |
| Number of binational center buildings owned.....       | 36          | 27            |