

forsee? You don't have to comment if you don't want to on population control.

Secretary RUSK. I will be glad to comment on the two points you raised.

First on the military assistance, I think there are three specific figures that would be of some interest to the committee on this particular point.

First, the defense budgets of the Latin American countries represents $1\frac{3}{4}$ percent of their gross national product. Compared to the world as a whole, that is a relatively low commitment of resources to defense.

Secondly, of all of our aid to Latin America, 7 percent has been military assistance.

Third, of all of our military assistance, 7 percent has gone to Latin America.

This does not mean, Mr. Hays, that waste is to be commended. We have pointed out to some of our friends, for example, what to me is a rather dramatic figure, that one supersonic aircraft squadron can build and maintain a university.

Now, the situation on this matter of military expenditure varies considerably in different parts of the hemisphere. I think we would be hard put to say, for example, that Guatemala or Venezuela have more military forces than they need at the present time, for they are rather busy these days. Nevertheless, there are certain others who have been considering moving to new levels of sophistication and new levels of cost. It is my impression, sir—and I can't speak for them on the present circumstances—it is my impression that they themselves are considering what they can do to accept some limitations on defense budgets in order to avoid a prestige race in highly modernized and sophisticated weapons. This is something they can do more easily on their own than through unilateral pressures. They have their problems, too, but I hope some progress can be made on that, and I share Mr. Hays' concern about the possibility of waste when there are so many other things to be done.

Incidentally, this is a major problem for us and one of the reasons why we would like to see a little peace in the world. This year the defense budget of the United States equals the total gross national product of the rest of the hemisphere combined, if you leave out Canada, almost exactly the same figure, just under \$75 billion.

Mr. HAYS. What about the population?

Secretary RUSK. Now, on the population matter, sir, this is a problem particularly in terms of rates of investment and the utilization of resources. Certain steps are being taken in the Hemisphere, and I have perhaps made the mistake of commenting on some of those steps in a way that makes it more difficult for those governments to get on with it. We could, in executive session, go into some of the specific steps.

Mr. HAYS. Please don't say anything that will make it more difficult.

Secretary RUSK. This is, as you know, in most countries something of a controversial question, and I would not wish to make it more