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'Alliance' Progresses,

If Slowly

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To the wailing of his critics and the applause of his admirers, Richard N. Goodwin is returning to his State Department desk.

Before he begins warming his chair, the young, controversial deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs is launching a vigorous defense of the Alliance for Progress.

"It is something never done before. There is no standard to measure its progress except through impatient observers. That is no accurate index," he declared.

"Though it looks like we're not going anywhere there are undercurrents of some good being achieved. But it will take three to four years before it begins to show."

Goodwin has been on temporary duty setting up the Middle Level Manpower Conference, which ended in San Juan, Puerto Rico, last week.

When President Kennedy assigned him to the task three months ago, Goodwin's small army of detractors clicked their heels in glee. No one had heard of such a thing as middle-level manpower. Goodwin was being sent into exile, they chortled.

In a world tour, Goodwin persuaded 40 nations to attend the conference. With President Kennedy's blessing, a platoon of White House luminaries was on hand. Today the training of middle-level workers (skilled personnel such as technicians, teachers and administrators) has been given official sanction.

Not all the credit belongs to Goodwin. There were others who played decisive roles: Walt W. Rostow, chairman of the State Department policy planning council, and R. Sargent Shriver and William Had- dad, the number one and two



Richard N. Goodwin

... takes time

man of the Peace Corps. But Goodwin did much of the spawwork.

"The understanding when I took the job was that I would do it until the completion of the conference. Now that it's over I plan to go back to the State Department. To the same desk, as far as I knew," he commented.

"If the President wants me to do something else, naturally I would do it. But he has made no such request," he added.

Actually, Goodwin — who has both lauded and lambasted for his participation in the U.S.'s policy in Latin America — has not strayed too far from his desk.

"I've been keeping up with the cables. Almost every day I check with my State Department office," he reported.

He shows no signs his star

is descending over the Potomac, as his antagonists have claimed. He remains relaxed and self-assured.

Slouched in a Puerto Rico Lobby sofa and drawing leisurely on an aromatic cigar, he issued a brief on behalf of the Alliance.

"It is the cornerstone of our Latin policy. But you first must build a political basis before you can make social reforms. There have been some encouraging signs in this area. Many

of the Latin American political parties are adopting parts of the Alliance and candidates are talking about it. Election results in El Salvador and Colombia were gains on the side of the Alliance," he remarked.