

Star

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Program for Latin America

The semimonthly report is generally a workmanlike job, presenting the selected items clearly and concisely. Its value to analysts in DRA, however, is estimated variously, the most frequent comment being that it lacks timeliness. In our opinion it tends too much to concentrate on day-to-day events and the lag between the publication date abroad and the receipt of the OO-W in DRA is too great.

It is suggested that:

- 1) an effort be made to reduce the time of reporting;
- 2) less emphasis be placed on current events of an isolated nature;
- 3) increased attention be given to developments of a more basic or permanent character;
- 4) increased emphasis be placed on editorial opinion on important national and international issues -- on major international issues an especial effort should be made to exploit all useful sources indicative of public opinion;
- 5) attention be focused on any inter-American meetings, such as the forthcoming meeting of ECLA; and
- 6) an effort be made to exploit some of the less popular publications -- periodicals and perhaps books, which might provide insights not available through other sources.

Analysts in DRA have found material on Bolivia especially useful, that on the Dominican Republic somewhat excessive in relation to coverage on other countries, that on Colombia and Chile (except information on electric power) largely duplicative of information from other sources), that on Argentina of little value, that on Ecuador and Peru useful. On Guatemala, and Brazil it is suggested that we have more articles which reflect behind-the-scenes workings of government and politics, as distinct from surface appearances, and that especial emphasis be given to editorial opinion.

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We concur in the "proposed changes in the FDD program".

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