

# Deeper and Deeper

## Revolution Next Door Latin America in the 1970s by Gary MacEoin

(Holt, Rinehart and Winston; \$6.95)

Gary MacEoin assembles the necessary facts to prove that revolution next door is inevitable. The Alliance for Progress has failed, and the reforms agreed on at Punta del Este have been blocked whenever anyone has tried to implement them. The disturbing new element in this book lies in the plentiful evidence that the United States may already be so enmeshed in Latin American economies as to find difficulty in disengagement when the firing begins. The situation is comparable to the early years in Vietnam when the extent of our involvement was large but hard to see.

Once again the role of imperialism is the cause. The Swedish authority, Gunnar Myrdal, is quoted as roughly estimating that "directly or indirectly through joint enterprises or other arrangements, United States corporations now control or decisively influence between 70 and 90 percent of the raw material resources of Latin America, and probably more than half of its modern manufacturing industry, banking, commerce, and foreign trade, as well as much of its public utilities." That high percentage of big business involvement and control means there are innumerable American families who will find disassociation from engagement in Latin America economically painful.

Our imperialism is also extending its neo-colonial tentacles into the social and political life. Latin American armed forces have been assimilated into the United States defense system under which participating countries receive advanced weapons and integrated training. Instruction includes ideology: The same old ruse of fighting "communist subversion" is being used to maintain the hemispheric status quo. And Latin American labor syndicates have been emasculated. Their leaders have been trained in our brand of trade unionism so expertly that they can easily be manipulated. The CIA, if Gary MacEoin is correct, is using the American Institute for Free Labor Development "to

corrupt and control popular movements."

According to MacEoin, we have also invaded Latin American culture, finding it beneficial to integrate Latin American higher education with our own machinery for establishing academic standing. We can then employ the properly trained nationals in our international industrial complex, or drain off the brains where shortages exist at home. Also we have monopolized the mass media so that they may play their part in cultural colonialism; our insistent advertising sells both our products and our dollar-sign notions of human needs. The penetration thus appears to be complete. But what is happening? In Panama, Peru and Bolivia, power has been seized by the armies "to protect the people from the exploitation of local oligarchs and their international business allies." Chile has gone the same road by means of a democratic election. All through the continent, suppressed nationalist elements are taking heart. Even though it may be a long wait, they are holding out to regain the control of their destinies. MacEoin sees a parallel here with the pacification program in Indochina: "the more total the penetration the more negative the results. Political scientists must, in the future, cite this experience as no less significant than that of the Vietnam war when they discuss the limits of power of the great."

Virginia Freehafer

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