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FULL TEXT

ANNOUNCER: This is "Evening Edition." Now, from Washington, here is Martin Agronsky.

MARTIN AGRONSKY: Good Evening.

It's a curious paradox in American diplomacy, since the Second World War, that the United States has been less successful in improving its relations with our Latin American neighbors than with almost any other part of the world. The "Good Neighbor Policy" has been proclaimed, and often, but it hasn't really worked very well.

Now two more major controversies are troubling the U.S.-Latin American relationship. One is in Panama where at meetings of the U.N. Security Council in Panama City, the Panamanians are demanding loudly and angrily that the U.S. give up control of the Panama Canal and very quickly. And on Capitol Hill hearings are underway to determine the role played by ITT, an American corporation, in an alleged effort to undermine political affairs in Chile.

Now in both cases the U.S. appears to be in for a rough time, and tonight on "Evening Edition," a discussion of the relations between the U.S. and her Latin neighbors with Democratic Congressman Dante Fascell of Florida, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs; Democratic Congressman Michael Harrington of Massachusetts, who also sits on this Committee, and Professor James Theberge of Georgetown University, who specializes in Latin American Studies, and is with the Institute for Strategic and International Studies.

But first, with the headline news, Bob Kur.

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Gentlemen, do you think the United States has followed a good policy in our dealings with Latin America?