

Alliance for Progress Making Headway To Remedy Colombia's Ills

Editor's note: The foreign news analyst of United Press International has just completed a 25,000-mile assignment in Latin America where the United States has committed \$10 billion over 10 years in the Alliance for Progress. Following is the first of his five dispatches on the complex problems facing this program and these people.

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Bogota, Colombia - In sprawling Ciudad de Techo, a half hour's bus ride from the center of Bogota, the brown face of Leopoldo Cristacho wears a look of mingled pride, frustration and worry.

The pride is in his new home. The frustration, over the job still to be done. The worry, a matter of simple arithmetic which tells him he cannot pay for it, despite low interest rates and payments of only \$12 per month.

Nature endowed Colombia richly. It has lush agricultural lands still open only to the airplane or the jeep. It has minerals, gold, platinum, emeralds. Vast jungles remain to be explored.

But it also has an exploding population which increases at the rate of nearly three per cent per year and which threatens to outstrip its industrial gains.

An unskilled peasantry hoping to escape the banditry and poverty of the countryside

crowds in upon the cities to the still greater poverty of the crowded shacks which crawl antlike up the mountain sides. Unemployment is increasing and inflation has boosted the cost of living nearly 25 per cent in the last four and a half months.

More than 60 per cent of the people are illiterate. In Bogota, Colombia's cloud-swept capital 8,500 feet high in the Andes Mountains, there is vast government good will toward the United States and the idealism contained in the \$20 billion Alliance for Progress program. And only a tugging impatience that the job cannot go faster.

Colombia hopes for a five

per cent increase in gross national product annually over the next 10 years, and to help

Rockefeller Offers Own Nuclear Policy

New York—(UPI)—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller said Thursday night that President Kennedy's European nuclear defense policy will lead to "chaos" and proposed, instead, one of his own.

Rockefeller, who many believe will face Kennedy in 1964 as the Republican presidential candidate, urged the United States to help Europe create a nuclear arsenal and strategy that can be coordinated with our own.

if the Alliance already has allocated to Colombia more than \$160 million in aid.

He called for a "North Atlantic political arrangement within which nuclear weapons can be controlled and deployed for the common good of all free peoples."

Such an arrangement, he said, could be achieved through creation of a "genuine political partnership of strong and independent nations committed to sharing agreed nuclear responsibilities for the common defense of the Atlantic area."

But tax loopholes still permit the wealthy to avoid their taxes, and the inflationary spiral touched off by devaluation of the peso coupled with a general wage increase for city workers hit hardest the small coffee grower, the man most in need of help.

From earlier hopes of a balanced budget, the government's position has deteriorated to the point where now a deficit of at least \$100 million is anticipated.

The other side of the coin is the country's relative political stability as compared with the remainder of South America, and the fact that leftist forces are scattered and lack strong leadership.

Leopoldo Cristacho is a \$50-per-month policeman recently removed from a Bogota slum with his wife and four children to Ciudad de Techo, a huge housing project under the Alliance for Progress. It lies whitely in the sun and dust and is only partially completed. But eventually it will provide homes for 85,000 people who now live 8 and 10 to a room in the unsanitary hopelessness of the slums which press in upon Bogota

from all sides. Cristacho and his family formerly lived in a two-room flat which cost him \$5 per month. It had no lighting, hot water or plumbing facilities. His new home will have all of that. The plumbing has been installed, but neither the water nor the electricity has been connected.

Cristacho figures his expenses at \$12 per month for his mortgage, \$10 a month for improvements, \$10 for cloth-

ing and around \$30 for food. Like his government, he is over his budget.

Present head of the government is President Guillermo Leon Valencia, a courtly man with a greying leonine head of hair, the son of one of Colombia's great national poets.

In an interview with this correspondent, he described Colombia as an "open window" ready to exhibit the fruits of the Alliance for Progress, but he added, a window which still is mostly empty.

"But upon the Alliance," he said, "depends the future of all South America. Either democracy will flourish or

the whole continent must sink into misery and chaos.

"In that event, a Communist take-over is inevitable."

But, great as are Colombia's problems, a start is being made. U. S. Ambassador Fulton Freeman presents a partial list: 31,175 houses started in 1962, 155 classrooms built, 300 started and contracts let for nearly 1,200 more, 24 public health centers built, and 96 million pounds of food distributed under "Food for Peace."

And thoughtful Colombians cling to the belief that if any South American nation can achieve Alliance goals, theirs is the one.

Americans Injured In Viet Nam Crash

Saigon, Viet Nam - (UPI) - Two American military men were wounded Saturday when Communist ground fire forced down an H-34 helicopter near the city of Da Nang, a U.S. military spokesman reported.

Another helicopter was hit in the same action and a Vietnamese soldier aboard it was severely wounded.

The two helicopters were part of a fleet of 15 airlifting Vietnamese troops to a strike zone 45 miles south of Danang.

The military spokesman said the pilot of the H-34 which was forced down was wounded in the leg. Another American aboard the helicopter suffered a broken nose when it crashed.

Nassau, Bahamas - (UPI) - Jewelry worth up to \$280,000 has been stolen from the home of Lady Sassoon, widow of millionaire banker Sir Victor Sassoon, at Cable Beach.

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