

# Critics Claim Latins Running Organization of American States

Editor's Note: The 21-nation Organization of American States (OAS), in which the United States is a key member and the chief financial angel, was set up to keep the peace in the western hemisphere. Has it done this effectively? Or has it, as many opponents charge, become a humbering bureaucracy that has done little to keep the peace in the western hemisphere. Has it done this effectively? Or has it, as many opponents charge, become a humbering bureaucracy that has done little to keep the peace in the western hemisphere.

By ARNALDO OTERO, United Press International. Washington—(AP)—Bolivia has done what critics of the Organization of American States (OAS) have urged the United States to do—abandon the western hemisphere peace-keeping organization.

Bolivia's action, whether ill-vised or not, underscores the dissatisfaction of many high officials—here and in Latin America—with the way the world's oldest peace machinery is being managed.

The 21-nation OAS—Cuba, although ousted, still belongs—is for all practical purposes Latin American agency, run by Latins dealing with Latin American problems. This is so in practice if not in intent.

The first Secretary General, ex-Colombian President Alberto Lleras Camargo, once said that the organization was what its member governments want it to be. And that is the way it is today.

It is no secret that the legal aspects of world peace through law Tuesday discussed legal aspects of outer space.

The delegates from more than 100 countries attending the meeting, the first such world conference of lawyers aimed at promoting peace, centered their discussion on the new problems posed by space exploration.

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At the inaugural session, Earl Warren, U. S. Chief Justice, called for an international court with the means of enforcing judgments.

He said, "When we consider the danger of international friction today, it is even more important for us to have a body of international law than it is to make improvements in our domestic law."

Warren also said lawyers should be the first to agree that the responsibility is theirs to initiate a movement to have the problems of nations solved by means other than war.

He devoted much of his speech to the origin of law, and said "through thousands of years have elapsed, we have not defined and perfected international law as we have domestic law in our respective countries."

United States and the 19 Latin American republics that actively belong to the OAS, has turned it into a vacillating, sometimes misdirected institution.

Chile, Bolivia, the U. S. government has no intention of quitting. This, at least, is the present official thinking. This is so although most of the crucial U. S. problems with the Latin American government are carried out on a bilateral basis and not through the OAS.

Emergency problems and programs with countries from Mexico to Argentina can be dealt with more quickly by the sluggish U. S. bureaucracy than through the OAS. For example, the United States has never ventilated in the western hemisphere peace-keeping organization with Mexico. Nor its vital rescue aid packages to the shaky economies of Brazil and Argentina.

Emergency problems and programs with countries from Mexico to Argentina can be dealt with more quickly by the sluggish U. S. bureaucracy than through the OAS. For example, the United States has never ventilated in the western hemisphere peace-keeping organization with Mexico. Nor its vital rescue aid packages to the shaky economies of Brazil and Argentina.

Through its slow-moving, cautious and sharply divided permanent council, the member nations have successfully solved minor but highly emotional disputes between member governments.

The OAS also played a key role in bringing about a peaceful and orderly transition from dictatorship to democracy in the Dominican Republic after more than 30 years of bloody tyranny under Dictator Rafael L. Trujillo who was assassinated two years ago.

And in October, 1962, the United States won a major victory for the members within the OAS when it received the organization's unanimous and speedy support to force Russia to pull its nuclear missiles out of Cuba.

It is this type of outstanding performance by an unusually clumsy organization that obscures the legitimate complaints.

The OAS governments could probably profit by confronting directly public issues of importance being poorly handled through the OAS.

The present Secretary General, Jose A. Mora, a former Uruguayan ambassador to the OAS, has been the target of unrelenting and sometimes vicious unfair criticism.

For all practical matters, it is agreed that Mora is a weak office.

In a recent book on the OAS, former U. S. Ambassador to the OAS John Drier, said of Mora's post:

"Despite their enthusiasm for the regional concept, the American republics have actually approached the delegation of power to the regional organization with great reserve."

In diplomatic language, that means the secretary general's office has been made ineffective with basic administrative reforms.

At the Pan American union, and in fact, the regional offices and agencies, work nearly 800 international employees. Only a few compete for their jobs. Not a few top-level officials

are hired without the recommendations of one or more diplomats.

Today it costs the U. S. government about \$2 million a year to belong to the OAS. It has cost the U. S. government about \$2 million a year to belong to the OAS. It has cost the U. S. government about \$2 million a year to belong to the OAS.

Yet it is conceded that the lack of open discussion of matters that should be in the public domain has hurt the organization.

It is now for the Latin American countries to translate their repeated words into deeds, to take the initiative in affecting the needed changes they so often demand.

Like Morrison, many ambassadors by necessity devote only cursory attention to OAS matters. The ambassador at Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Venezuela and Paraguay also represent their governments to the White House.

The U. S. delegation, in fact, has contributed to what Ambassador Drier called "a plethora of organs, agencies and instrumentalities."

During his seven-year term of office—he still can serve until 1968—Mora has had about seven press officers and countless changes in top-level personnel.

At the Pan American Union, public information matters are often left to the whims of diplomats. Well-intentioned as some are, they do not begin to understand the requirements of the mass communications media.

This type of procedure is common in the halls of the Pan American Union which are beautifully decorated with the murals designed by New York's Tiffany and fountain and emblems made in Mexico and other countries.

Unlike the chairs of the old council room which were festively carved out of a single mahogany tree in the Dominican republic, the OAS is made of a myriad of power blocs that often paralyze its operations.

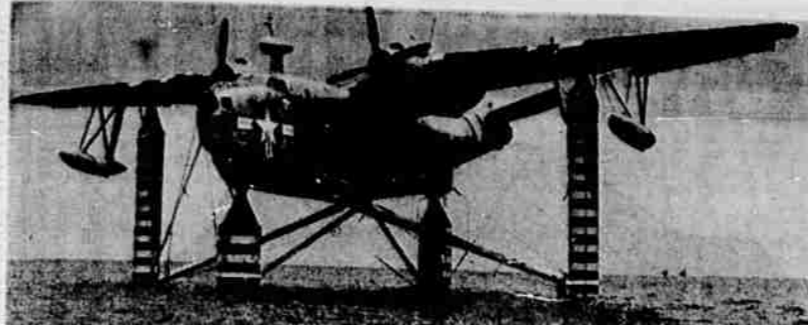
And unlike other families, this family of nations is reluctant to discuss its relations with frankness. This is

in their institutions, and to remove obstacles which obstruct progress toward their own clearly stated goals.

The organization, aside from all its other problems, is nearly broke. At the end of 1962, it did not have enough money to pay its debts. And today it is dipping into outside resources to run its programs because member-governments won't pay their dues.

Experts agree unanimously that the organization is capable of great peace-making efforts. It also is doing distinguished work in the fields of art and culture, though on a small scale.

But in the final assessment, no well-intentioned observer can escape the prophetic words of the organization's first secretary general—Lleras Camargo—when he said: "It (the OAS) is what the member governments want it to be, nothing else. The governments are the organization. . . if our conduct is bad, we have nobody to blame but ourselves."



VERTICAL FLOATS—A Navy PBM3 rides on vertical floats designed to make the sea-plane a stable, working platform for anti-submarine warfare. The PBM vertical float tests were conducted in the Pacific Ocean near San Clemente Island by General Dynamics-Convair under a Navy contract. (UPI)

# Gen. Washington's Highlands Headquarters Being Restored

By FREDERICK M. WINSHIP, New Windsor, N. Y. — (AP)—American independence was declared in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, but it was in this Continental Army encampment—now under restoration—that Gen. George Washington stood fast against making the new nation a monarchy.

Washington's men were chafing to get back to their farms and businesses, but not without some pay in their pockets.

Disatisfaction with the near-bankrupt Continental Congress, sitting in Philadelphia, was rampant, especially among Washington's officers. They complained of pay arrears, unsettled food and clothing accounts and failure of the Congress to grant them promised life pensions at half pay.

The huge log building in which this historic meeting took place, the Temple of Virtue, stands on the high top site. The original disappate long ago, but a replica has been built.

At the meeting, the father of his country shamed the rebels by pleading for the same loyalty and patience with their government that he had received as a museum.

Washington brushed aside the suggestion, expressed in a letter from Col. Lewis Nicola, with annoyance and scorn, but soon he was faced with a more serious rebellion against the Congress led by Maj. John Armstrong.

The major circulated anonymous broadsides at the cantonment, urging the officers to openly defy Congress.

It was at Hahnbrook House that Washington established the Order of Merit, now known as the Purple Heart, in 1782. One of two original Purple Hearts—that given Sgt. Elijah Churchill for meritorious action—is owned by the association and is displayed at the temple.

It was also at the temple that the Society of the Cincinnati was formed by Washington's officers in 1783. This organization, limited to descendants of the original members in the eldest male line, still exists with 2,100 members.

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