

A Diplomat Looks at Aid to Latin America. By WILLARD L. BEAULAC. Carbondale, 1970. Southern Illinois University. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$6.95.

This short work stems from a series of lectures given by Ambassador Willard Beaulac when he was serving as diplomat-in-residence at Southern Illinois University between 1967 and 1969. It reflects his own experience as ambassador to five Latin American countries, where he was frequently involved in some aspect of American aid programs.

Perhaps the most entertaining sections of the book, however, deal with non-aid subjects. The ambassador was in Argentina at the time of then Vice-President Richard Nixon's visit, and he has rather strong opinions about the contrived and frequently misinterpreted publicity that resulted. He was still in Argentina when President Dwight Eisenhower visited that nation and was the last career ambassador to Cuba prior to Fidel Castro's takeover. He also served in Bogotá at the time of the Ninth International Conference of American States, when rioting took place over the assassination of Jorge Gaitán. It is unfortunate that the ambassador did not devote more space to all of these experiences, but that is something like saying that he should have written a different book.

The fact is that Ambassador Beaulac's views on the nature and success of American aid programs deserve a hearing. He recognizes the need for greater understanding of Latin America than that produced by a flying trip or worse yet no trip at all. He sees the good intentions of the Alliance for Progress but bemoans its failures. He raises very serious questions about the use of aid to strengthen the military, reduce democratic growth, and stifle the very internal changes that Latin America needs.

In sum, Beaulac is suggesting that less aid of some types, both money and personnel, may accomplish more in terms of U.S. and Latin American interests. He believes that Latin American demagogues have used nationalism and provincialism too long to obstruct progress and that political leaders must do much more to create favorable climates for private investment.

Beaulac's views will not please many who see U.S. aid as the solution to the problems of underdeveloped nations. Yet he makes a case for an American policy of nonintervention, good will, and encouraging others to help themselves and earn the aid they can use effectively.

The format of this book is unfortunate. There are too many short

chapters, creating an unevenness of coverage and an impression of choppiness. There is a short index and bibliography. Those with limited library budgets may wish to pass this by, but it is a better addition to Latin American holdings than some of the many edited collections that keep appearing.

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The Rockefeller Report on the Americas. The Official Report of a United States Presidential Mission for the Western Hemisphere. By NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER. Introduction by TAD SZULC. Chicago, 1969. Quadrangle Books. Tables. Figures. Charts. Pp. x, 144. Paper. \$1.25.

In this survey Governor Rockefeller reports to President Nixon that on each of the four "saturation visits [more than 20] members of your mission were able to sit down and talk, as knowledgeable colleagues, with experts of all sorts on specific problems and to gain new sensitive insights on what could be done more effectively to achieve our common objectives." However, the pages of the report abound with mushy (rather than sensitive) expressions, sloppy (rather than common) assumptions, and statements which remain unintelligible or absurd, in and out of context.

The report claims to have "looked at the challenges and opportunities from the point of view of the hemisphere as a whole" (p. 15). What it does communicate effectively is the style and substance of recent U.S. policy regarding Latin America. For example, on p. 40, we find a recognition that "our style may often have more important effect than what we actually do in the hemisphere." Rockefeller illustrates his style by proclaiming: "There is no system in all of history better than our own flexible structure of political democracy, individual initiative, and responsible citizenship in elevating the quality of man's life" (p. 39).

Other quotations also give the flavor of the report: "The US cannot renege on its commitment to a better life for all of the people of the hemisphere, because of moral disagreement with regimes which the people themselves did not establish and do not control" (p. 59). "Many of our neighbors find it incomprehensible that the US will not sell them military equipment which they feel is required to deal with internal subversion" (p. 60). "Thus many military leaders in the other American republics see the US acting to hold them back as second-class citizens, and they are becoming increasingly estranged