

outside communist countries are involved.

In a conflict of the first category, it would be clearly unwise to commit forces. Our vital security interests are not involved, and our capabilities are limited....We should use what political influence we have to help these countries resolve their disputes; if this effort fails, the resulting wars will not be made less bloody or useless by our intervention. It does not follow, however, that we should be indifferent to the outcome... In Latin America, we should be prepared to join any action by the OAS that may be agreed on in response to uses of force that extend across national frontiers, leaving it largely up to the Latin American countries to decide what that response should be; and we should be prepared to provide military assistance to threatened governments.

Colombia Paper Calls for OAS Intervention

The following are excerpts from the Colombian

newspaper *El Tiempo's* editorial of January 7:

The North American magazine *Time* has published an interesting and worrisome report on the possibility, not all that remote — according to its editors — of a war between Peru, Chile and Bolivia; that is to say, the same protagonists of the so-called "War of the Pacific" which is nearing its first centennial...

Spokesmen of the three countries implicated in this disturbing chronicle of the almost always well-informed U.S. weekly, have rushed to categorically deny as false the suppositions alluded to by the important publication. However, despite the perennial protests, there are — and this is obvious — multiple and unmistakable symptoms of ill-feeling in that very noticeable area...

...in the regular statutes of the Organization of American States (OAS) the road to all such absurd and delinquent attempts at devastation and death is shut off. This could be seen not long ago in the so-called "soccer war" in Central America between El Salvador and Honduras, which was able to be stopped in its barbarous execution by the rapid and efficient intervention of the OAS...

Pressure on Brazil to Go to War

The furor over the War of the Pacific and the creation of SATO has brought to the surface a factional brawl in Brazil which has long been building. The following grid of recent Brazilian press reflects this fight: pro-development nationalist and related forces line up behind the anti-SATO and anti-war line of *Folha de Sao Paulo*; and the pro-Wall Street right wingers of the *Medici* faction aggressively push SATO and confrontation with the Soviets through the pages of *Estado de Sao Paulo*.

12-29-76 *New York Times* article by Jonathan Kandell on Brazil's economic crisis stresses the importance of oil imports for Brazil's balance of payments deficit. According to Kandell, 40 per cent of Brazil's export earnings goes to pay for oil imports; another 40 per cent goes to pay its foreign debt; leaving 20 per cent of export income to meet its internal needs.

1-1-77 *Estado de Sao Paulo* reprints Kandell's article without comment.

1-4-77 A *Time* magazine article on the War of Pacific entitled "Girding for a Bloody War" contends that "the Russian role in Peru continues to worry Washington. If war broke out," *Time* continues, "...it could tempt other countries into similar action. Potential territorial disputes, for example, simmer between Venezuela and Colombia and Guyana."

1-5-77 *O Globo* and *Jornal do Brasil* report *Time's* article without mentioning the problem of Bolivian sea access, a major issue of contention in the War of Pacific. The article reports only on Peru's purchase of Soviet weapons.

Defense and Foreign Policy prints an article by Leight Johnson pushing for a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO) to replace the OAS' Interamerican Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR).

1-6-77 *Folha de Sao Paulo's* editorial says that because of its political, economic, and military importance, Brazil should be concerned about the hot situation between Chile, Peru, and Bolivia. It criticizes the arms buildup between countries who have serious economic problems, saying "the road to development is not through war."

1-7-77 Brazil's Foreign Ministry rejects *Defense and Foreign Policy's* article, saying that Brazil will "definitively" not participate in a SATO with Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and South Africa. "TIAR will be preserved as a valid instrument for the defense of the continent when and if it is threatened."

Estado de Sao Paulo's editorial says that the Leight Johnson article is a U.S. "trial

balloon" for SATO, and reports that there are rumors that "the foundations of a SATO are already being structured." The editorial, entitled "Creation of a South Atlantic Treaty," favors a "more active" Brazilian role in the African Atlantic zone, "in order to influence the evolution and shape the developments according to our national and ideological interests." It then emphasizes that in order for SATO to be solidified, "it is absolutely necessary that the U.S. participate in it effectively through means other than logistical, armaments, and training support." The editorial also praises Brazil's decision to participate in the NATO-sponsored Carib Ops naval maneuvers off Puerto Rico later this month.

The French daily *Le Nouveau Journal* calls the Soviet Union's plane sale to Peru a "master coup for Moscow" that now "threatens a fearful Chile."

1-8-77 *Folha de Sao Paulo* reports Brazil's Foreign and Army Ministries answer to the *Nouveau Journal* article. The Foreign Ministry points out that Peru's arms purchase will not affect Brazil-Peru relations, which have been at high point since the Nov. 5, 1976 Geisel-Morales Bermudez meeting. The Army Ministry says it is not worried about the purchase, since Peru is neither Communist nor Marxist and bought the Soviet equipment only because the Soviets offered the best terms.

Folha de Sao Paulo prints a small note

reporting that the war between Peru and Chile is building.

Estado de Sao Paulo claims that Brazil will have a more aggressive policy towards Central America and the Caribbean now that under President José Portillo, Mexico will not follow former President Echeverria's international policy towards those areas.

Estado de Sao Paulo reports that the French magazine *Defense Interarmée* published an article signed by Francois Dutrai that says that "the political stability and the strength of the (Brazilian) military regime create real possibilities for an imperial policy by the Brazilian government." According to *Estado de Sao Paulo*, *Defense Interarmée* contends that military power is not part of Brazil's foreign policy but that Brazil's geopolitical interests will force the country to intervene in other countries' policy.

Estado de Sao Paulo reports on a U.S. Congress investigation on the human rights question and says that Brazilian military men would be very upset if U.S. military aid is shut off.

1-9-77 A *New York Times* article by Jonathan Kandell comments that Brazil is a democracy and has only minor problems related with human rights.

Eliot Janeway in the *Washington Star* calls for a Brazilian invasion of Venezuela to solve Brazil's oil supply problems.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Replies to U.S. Manipulation

The following excerpts are from the transcript of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ramon Escovar Salom's press conference responding to the article by Eliot Janeway in the *Washington Star*. Escovar's comments were printed in the Caracas daily *El Nacional* of Jan. 12.

Escovar: The public opinion of our peoples must be fully warned and conscious of the fact that this is a matter of the manipulation of international suspicions against the unity and solidarity of the developing nations.

Question: And what is Venezuela doing to face this?

Escovar: The best way to fight this kind of campaign is with the truth.

Q: Does the *Washington Star* article form a part of all this?

Escovar: I have not fully read the article to which you refer. I have only read what has been published in the (local) press. I have asked our ambassador in Washington for a full report. But I can say, without referring to this item but rather to a series of articles published in the last few days, that there is a visible and concrete attempt to present certain aspects of international affairs in a distorted and incorrect manner. And Latin America in particular, along with the Third World in general, must be fully aware of those manipulations so as to be able to fight them.

Q: What circles do you think are behind this campaign against the unity of the Third World?

Escovar: There could be several, but the important thing is that they exist.