

EDITORIAL NOTE

Ever since Columbus set foot on Bahamian soil and, a third of a century later, Cortes' men from Mexico met and mingled with fellow Iberians from Europe in the Moluccas, some men have known that this is one world. Today, as earthlings bound together in a common effort to extend man's domain into the enveloping vastness of space, we all do.

For over four centuries the great oceans united the new world of the Western Hemisphere with the old worlds of Western Europe, Africa, and the Far East. Ships plied regularly back and forth with their richly varied cargoes of human beings and freight. Generously the New World returned more than it had received: new hope and a second chance for troubled people of other lands along with exciting and lucrative new opportunities for ambitious individuals or nations; the silver and gold that financed the trade along the China coast as well as the designs of the monarchs of Europe; new products that fed the hungry or provided firm economic bases for areas far from America (potatoes in Ireland, peanuts and cacao in Africa, rubber in Malaysia); unparalleled missionary opportunities; totally new social mixes (white-Negro-Indian) and widened social perspectives; new political ideas, ideals, institutions, constitutions (U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution for a Federal Republic); new concepts governing international relationships and law (the Calvo and Estrada doctrines); ingenious advances in technology in business and industry; technology for developing troubled, poverty-stricken areas.

For the most part these American contributions have been made incidentally and naturally. Almost unnoted, also, has been the fact that it is in this area of relationships between men of the New World and those of the Old that the two Americas—Anglo and Latin—have shown most

clearly elements of shared history, common heritage, and community of spirit.

This role of the Americas among the peoples of the world has always been of vital interest to the *Journal of Inter-American Studies*. Implicit during the early years of publication, it was spelled out clearly by Henry King Stanford when the *Journal* moved to the University of Miami under the sponsorship of the University's newly established Center for Advanced International Studies. After noting that the futures of the various American nations are inextricably joined and that we have no choice but to study each other and to learn from each other, President Stanford concluded: "Further, we wish to provide a milieu in which both we and our Latin American colleagues can view ourselves and our common and separate problems in their world settings, in terms of interrelationships with other and more distant peoples and lands. To this end the University is developing its inter-American program of studies and activities, not in an isolated Institute, as if we in the Americas constituted a world unto ourselves, but within a broad framework, that of a Center for Advanced International Studies which aims at excellence in the whole range of world affairs" (*Journal of Inter-American Studies* VII, no. 1, January, 1965).

Now, five years later, with this issue the *Journal* takes the natural next step by expanding its area of interests, and correspondingly changing its title, to emphasize that we in the Americas are not only deeply interested in the problems and achievements of our own individual nations and the close relations—sometimes good, sometimes less happy—existing among them but that we also share the concerns of our fellow human beings in the new interrelationships that modern technology, with its almost limitless power for good or ill, is forcing us all to face.

The *Journal* will continue to focus primarily on matters and issues that are peculiar to the Americas and their relationships. It will, however, open its pages to a limited number of articles that deal with developments in the world at large which are of special significance to men everywhere and which will enable us in the Americas to understand better the large forces that are influencing our destiny. This issue of the *Journal* begins with an article of the type we have in mind, and we plan to continue with others drawn from South as well as North America. We are confident that scholars of our hemisphere will bring the same freshness of approach and creativity to exchanges of ideas in this broadened area of interest as they have to exchanges that have to do with the Americas alone.

IONE S. WRIGHT
Editor