

Social Science Research Council

230 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017

November 23, 1966

Lic. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado 2123
México, D.F.

Dear Dr. Cosío:

On behalf of the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of this Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, we take pleasure in inviting you to attend a small, informal meeting on Saturday morning, December 10, 1966, at El Colegio de México. We should also like to invite you to be the guest of the Committee at a luncheon following the meeting.

Several members of the Joint Committee will be in Mexico City for a conference on research in Latin America, and we are taking advantage of this opportunity to request your suggestions on a matter of interest to the committee. In addition, we are to be favored at this meeting with the presence of visiting economists who are attending a seminar on economic integration which meets in Mexico City on December 12; those who have accepted our invitation to meet on December 10 are Mario Brodersohn, Director, Centro de Investigaciones Económicas, Instituto Torcuato Di Tella; Julian M. Chacel, General Director, Instituto Brasileiro de Economia, Fundação Getúlio Vargas; Miguel Urrutia, Director, Centro de Estudios Sobre Desarrollo Economico, Universidad de los Andes; and Ivan Yañez, Instituto de Economia, Universidad de Chile.

The members of the committee who will attend are Joseph Grunwald, Brookings Institution; Richard N. Adams, Professor of Anthropology, University of Texas; John P. Augelli, Professor of Geography, University of Kansas; Robert N. Burr, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles; Frank N. Dauster, Professor of Spanish Literature, Rutgers University; and Daniel Goldrich, Professor of Political Science, University of Oregon.

The purpose of this meeting would be to develop suggestions for use by the Joint Committee of funds available to it over the next five years for holding conferences to advance research in the social sciences and humanities, and to encourage scholarly interchange.


The Joint Committee has sponsored three scholarly conferences in recent years: the first on research and training in sociology, at

Stanford, California, in 1960; the second on research and training in economics, with the cooperation of the Instituto de Economia of the Universidad de Chile, in Santiago in 1962; and the third on social science research in Latin America, with the cooperation of the Centro Latino Americano de Pesquisas em Ciências Sociais, in Rio de Janeiro in 1965. We enclose a copy of Items, December, 1961, containing an article about the first of these conferences; the papers from the third conference are being published in Portuguese and Spanish in Rio de Janeiro, and in English by the Columbia University Press.

These three conferences were mainly concerned with technical and environmental aspects of research and training, rather than with substantive problems. As was suggested by Dr. Urquidí and others at the Rio de Janeiro meeting, the time may now be ripe for one or more conferences on substantive issues of mutual concern within one discipline, or across disciplines.

We should very much like to have your advice, and hope you will be interested in attending this meeting. We plan to meet at El Colegio from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and then have lunch together.

Sincerely yours,


✓ Bryce Wood
Staff, Joint Committee on
Latin American Studies

BW:kr
Enclosure

México, D.F., diciembre 20, 1966.

Prof. Bryce Wood
Social Science Research Council
230 Park Avenue
Nueva York, N.Y. 10017
E.U.A.

Distinguido Profesor Wood:

He estado ausente de México desde el 2 de octubre hasta el 16 de diciembre. Esto le explica a usted que no haya contestado su carta de 23 de noviembre. Siento, pues, muchísimo no haber participado en las reuniones a las que alude usted en ella.

Con mis mejores deseos, siempre suyo,
amigo.

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal N-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

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230 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017

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DELL HYMES, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
MORTON H. FRIED, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

American Economic Association

GEORGE H. HILDEBRAND, CORNELL UNIVERSITY
KARL A. FOX, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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American Historical Association

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January 12, 1967

Dr. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

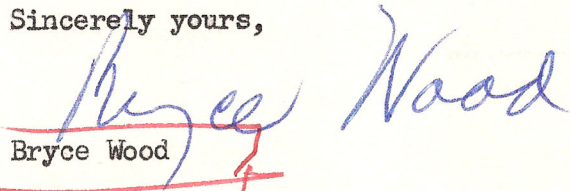
Dear Dr. Cosío Villegas:

I regret that you were unable to take part in the meeting at El Colegio de México on December 10 with members of the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies, and I appreciate your letter of December 20. In view of your possible interest, I am enclosing a copy of the report of the discussion at the meeting.

The manuscript of the papers from the Rio de Janeiro conference goes to the printer next week, and we hope for publication late this spring.

Best wishes for the new year, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Bryce Wood

BW:kr
Enclosure

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

JOINT COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Meeting with Latin American Social Scientists
on Conferences of Mutual Interest

El Colegio de México, México, D.F., Saturday, December 10, 1966

Summary of Discussion

Present:

Joseph Grunwald, Brookings Institution (Chairman)
Richard N. Adams, University of Texas
John P. Augelli, University of Kansas
Mario S. Brodersohn, Instituto Torcuato Di Tella
Robert N. Burr, University of California, Los Angeles
Frank N. Dauster, Rutgers -- The State University
Daniel Goldrich, University of Oregon
Mario Ojeda, El Colegio de México
Juan José Santiere, National Development Council, Buenos Aires
Modesto Seara Vásquez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Rafael Segovia, El Colegio de México
Victor L. Urquidi, El Colegio de México
Miguel Urrutia, Universidad de los Andes
Bryce Wood, Social Science Research Council
Ivan Yáñez, Instituto de Economía, Santiago de Chile

I. Suggestions of Themes of Conferences of Mutual Interest

It was noted that the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies possessed certain funds for holding conferences over the period 1966-71, and that it welcomed suggestions about the nature of such conferences, particularly with respect to substantive themes. The Joint Committee had already sponsored three conferences with Latin American and North American participants: on research and training in sociology and economics in 1960 (Stanford, California), and 1962 (Santiago de Chile), respectively; and on the status of the social sciences in Latin America, in 1965 (Rio de Janeiro). The papers from the latter conference are to be published in the spring of 1967, in Rio de Janeiro and by the Columbia University Press, New York.

The following themes for conferences were suggested for consideration by the Joint Committee:

1. The American states and their relationships in 1980

It was suggested that political leaders in Latin America were concerned with projections of political life, social structure and economic growth, not only in their own countries, but also in the United States, for developments in the United States affect countries in Latin America and are of great interest to them. However, social scientists were lagging behind political leaders in making projections in these fields, perhaps out of scholarly caution, and perhaps out of over-specialization. In this connection, it was noted that in Latin America, as distinct from the United States, there was deep concern for social, economic and political problems, and for

formulation of effective policies for dealing with them. Scholars and public officials were less differentiated in Latin America, and there was less tendency there to make sharp disciplinary distinctions in approaches to public problems. Interdisciplinary studies would be desirable, it was observed, because policy problems in the broadest sense were not neatly fenced off by disciplines, but consisted of closely linked elements so that if changes were made in one, others were affected. As one participant said: "We are interested in hearing from those who are thinking about what could happen, and what is likely to happen in terms of current trends." If projections could be made for the economy of the United States, what could be done with respect to Latin America? What are projections of United States investment in Canada and France, as compared with projections for Latin American countries?

2. The political implications of technological progress

Organisation of Economic

It was noted that the/ Cooperation and Development (OECD) has made a number of studies of future possibilities, including one on the prospects for parliamentary government. Such studies were nearly entirely lacking for Latin America despite the rapid pace of technological innovation in certain countries.

3. The economic, social and political effects of foreign economic relations of Latin America, with particular reference to political effects of foreign trade, and the economic, political and social consequences of investments from the United States.

4. Problems in 19th and 20th Century economic development: factors of industrialization; influence of foreign trade; causes of periods of stagnation in economic advance.

This topic was linked to topic no. 3, but its emphasis was on economic history, rather than on the present and near future.

5. What is happening to economic planning in various Latin American countries?

This theme was supported by suggestions from different participants. One approach favored studies of elites in Latin American countries--their identification and their values. A related approach was that of the study of decision making by elites, especially in the field of economics. This was regarded as an interesting opportunity for interdisciplinary research by economists and sociologists.

6. Education and educational policies

The field of education was also thought to be a promising one for interdisciplinary research and communication. Specifically, two areas were singled out: (1) manpower needs and training for phases of economic development; and (2) socialization of both children and adults into the political system ("politicization").

7. Research in Latin America by North Americans

Difficult problems have recently been raised by the relatively large numbers of North American students and scholars undertaking survey

research in Latin American countries. It was considered that one or more conferences on this topic would be desirable at appropriate times. Possible cooperation between the prospective Latin American Social Science Council and the Joint Committee was envisaged.

II. Types of Conferences and Other Meetings

A. Possible aims, with different combinations at different meetings

A number of aims of conferences were mentioned:

1. To advance scientific knowledge and to stimulate further research.
2. To encourage scholarly activity through making communication easy and informal.
3. To identify significant and researchable topics, especially for younger scholars.
4. To widen knowledge of methodological innovations.
5. To enhance appreciation of approaches and perceptions of different disciplines with respect to policy or other problems.
6. To produce new, co-ordinated research through commissioning of papers, with the inclusion of stipends for freed time with adequate advance planning. In this connection it was noted that, in the recent past, many conferences have been limited to the presentation of viewpoints of different disciplines about various problems; now, the situation is changing because empirical studies can be made, and several disciplines can present specific findings about a specific problem.
7. To promote interdisciplinary cooperation by efforts to minimize specialized terminology and so maximize common understanding.
8. To develop through intensive sessions of specialized scholars, critical analyses of research in progress.

B. Conference Organization

Several types of meetings might be held; the following list is suggestive, rather than exhaustive.

1. Workshops of half a dozen research scholars engaged on closely related work, for criticism of on-going studies and exchanges of views; these might last for several days or a week.
2. Formal conferences of a week or more with papers planned for publication in book form; research stipends, honoraria and publication subsidies for issuance in more than one language might be contemplated.

3. Informal conferences of a few days for exchanges of views, for example on contributions of novelists of social protest to problems of urbanization, or on such a theme as that of I, 7, above.
4. Training institutes of perhaps six weeks' to two months' duration, providing for lectures, seminars, time for writing and criticism of papers.
5. Several conferences planned as a series; a suggested theme was that of social implications of economic development. A series might include conferences successively on (a) economic history; (b) theory and techniques of development; (c) projections of trends and anticipation of related problems.

The Chairman thanked the participants and said that the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies would give consideration to their suggestions at its 21st meeting, February 9-10, 1967. Copies of the summary of discussion at the meeting will be distributed to those who attended.