

EDITORIAL NOTE

In this enlarged, combined July-October issue of the *Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs* we add a somewhat new dimension to the role or function of a scholarly journal, in that three of our eight articles were written by men (with proper scholarly credentials) reporting on history-making actions in which they had personally participated in some respect. One might regard them (in kind, if not in degree) as late twentieth-century counterparts of Hernán Cortés, Bernal Díaz del Castillo, or Pedro Cieza de León four and a half centuries ago. Like the conquistadores, these authors—a man of business, a member of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, and a budding political scientist—have felt the compulsion to tell the story as it happened before—as it inevitably does—it vanishes into folklore, mythology, or oblivion: to make these primary source materials available immediately and permanently to interested scholars. Already scholarly studies are appearing on two of these subjects, some of them unsatisfying because they are based on inadequate materials. (Bernal Díaz' plaint against Father López de Gómara's book comes to mind!)

Mr. John C. Leslie, whose historical notes on the International Air Transport Association are to be found in the first article of this issue, holds a B.S. degree from Princeton University, and a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering and an M.S. in Business and Engineering Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His forty-one year career with Pan American World Airways, from which he retired in 1970 as Senior Vice President-International Affairs and a member of the Board of Directors, brought Mr. Leslie into the arena of world affairs and made him a

major participant in the development and activities of IATA about which he writes. He represented Pan American at the Havana Organization meeting of IATA in April 1945, at Montreal in October of the same year, and at many General Meetings thereafter. He also served on the Executive Committee of IATA from 1947 to 1950 and again from 1952 to 1970.

More than a major participant, when Monsignor Walsh writes the story of the Cuban Refugee Children, he does so as the prime (if not the sole) creator and director of a program designed to meet a sharp, immediate, incredibly complicated situation of human need and distress in our time. Quite properly, therefore, he writes directly in the first person, from his own knowledge and records, supplemented by those of his colleagues in this venture. Both personally and professionally, Father Walsh (currently also a graduate student in Inter-American Studies at the University of Miami) shares the concern of historians and social scientists to get this story clear in the record and, at the cost of great personal effort, taken from his busy life, presents it here on pages 378-415.

The Gitlitz article (see pp. 456-474), in contrast to the two mentioned above, shows a scholar-author as neither director nor participant but rather as a young political scientist using his newly-learned methodologies and skills to report on and give a preliminary analysis of the Peruvian reform as he saw it in its first year. Something more than a traveler's account or journalist's report, certainly less definitive than a field research project, we feel that John S. Gitlitz' comments will be useful to *Journal* readers both now and later.

Definitions and descriptions of the role of a scholarly journal vary widely and will continue to do so. Within their own tightly held limits, scholars cherish their individuality and freedom and one could probably get as many different definitions as there are scholars offering them. The *Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs* has always been oriented toward purposeful innovations and its total independence (subject only to its own Board of Editors) gives it an enviable freedom of action in this respect along with a greater challenge and responsibility for exploring new areas of interest or creative action than other journals with different priorities. Your comments are invited about this—our latest venture.

IONE S. WRIGHT
Editor