

Diplomat to Peru helps ease tension between countries

United Press International
LIMA, Peru — On the plane bringing Mrs. Rosalynn Carter to Peru during her recent South American trip, United States officials said flatly that American relations with Peru were "the best in the last eight years."
Local officials and diplomats agreed that Peru, whose military government was long considered a thorn in Washington's side, is getting along famously with the United States these days. They give a large share of the credit to career diplomat Robert W. Dean, who left Peru in mid-June following a three-year, two-month tour of duty.
Dean, 57, will spend next year as diplomat in residence at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Tex. Shortly before his departure he

discussed some of the reasons for the improved relations.
Dean arrived when Peru was in the sixth year of leftist military government under then President Gen. Juan Velasco.
Velasco forced through a sweeping land reform program, required industrialists to share ownership of their businesses with the workers and nationalized enormous properties owned by foreign corporations, many of them American.
According to Dean, these reforms were inevitable.
"Most people are agreed that something had to be done, and if it wasn't done by the people who came in, it would have been done by somebody else. Distribution of land, income and power was so skewed that it tended to build up

economic and social pressures, with all their political overtones," he said.
In August, 1975, Gen. Francisco Morales Bermudez replaced Velasco as president in a swift coup without a bullet fired. He promised that the self-styled "Peruvian Revolution of the Armed Forces" would continue.
It did, but in a "second phase."
In the second phase, the major emphasis seems to be to correct what the Peruvians themselves had decided were excesses of the first phase," Dean said. "Some people would interpret the refinements as less revolution and more pragmatism, to calm some of the fears in the minds of international investors, and above all, domestic investors."
"The agrarian reform coincided

with a significant decrease in the rate of growth in the agricultural sector. With the population growth of three per cent per year, there was a net loss of food availability."
"This decline has now been reversed," Dean said, largely because owners of middle-sized farms no longer fear expropriation. In the industrial area, the government has converted the controversial worker-ownership plan to a simple profit sharing scheme.
In the meantime, the diplomatic problems between the United States and Peru, "mostly in the expropriation area, have been solved, by dint of patient and protracted negotiations, with the help of excellent teams that Washington sent us," Dean said.

He is optimistic on Peru's future. The current acute financial crisis is "hopefully temporary; this country is an absolute treasure trove of resources, especially in the mining and minerals field."
The promise made by Morales Bermudez to call general elections in 1980 is "a logical corollary to the openings being made in the economic field."
While Velasco's expropriation of the major newspapers under a plan to turn them over to organized social sectors "does not fit our concept of traditional freedom of the press, Peru is not a human rights country in the problem sense; philosophically this government wants to help its citizens, not to abuse them," he said.

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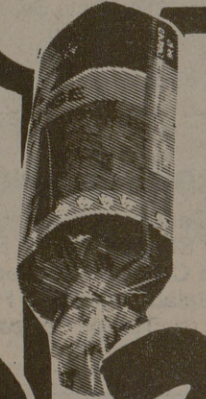
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Ashworth says Board should ease policies

If higher education in Texas can maintain a firm handle on efficiency and duplication of efforts, the Coordinating Board will ease its "get tough" policy, that agency's top spokesman predicted Monday.
Dr. Kenneth Ashworth, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, told administrators at a Texas A&M University workshop that he thought the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, should not seek to increase its power over their operations.
"I think we already have all the authority we need or should have," Ashworth said. "We shouldn't have a centralized decision-making role."
He said his advice to institutions of higher education in Texas would be the same as President Lincoln gave to Union Army Gen. George McClellan: "Consolidate your forces, seek a place of security and wait."
Dr. Charles A. LeMaistre, chancellor of the University of Texas System, who followed Ashworth in the program, said that the focus is on discretionary spending in government, and that certainly includes higher education.
He said that the past decade, however, has been remarkable in terms of growth of higher education in the state.
LeMaistre said that while taxpayers are concerned about their tax dollars and do not favor expansion of education, when it is time for their children to go to school, they want a spot for them.
"Communities prosper in the education of their citizens. I'm opposed to limiting access to classrooms. Access should be unfettered," he emphasized.
The chancellor added that higher education should not be limited to 18 and 24-year-olds. He said these students are brighter than ever before, but they lack experience. Colleges and universities, he said, should operate so those in the older age groups can easily come back in for more learning, or to change careers.

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