Inter-American Legal Developments

S. A. Bayitch
ARGENTINA

A new Secretaría de Planeamiento y Acción de Gobierno was created by Law No. 19.276 (1971) under direct administration of the President. The new office will function in connection with CONADE, CONASE, and CONACYT (4 Law.Am. 62, 1972). Ministries are now organized according to Law No. 19.320 (1971), amending Law No. 19.064 (3 Law.Am. 507, 1971), setting the number of ministries at twelve (interior, foreign relations and cult, finances, agriculture, industry and mining, commerce, labor, culture and education, defense, social welfare, public works and services, and justice).

Life insurance for civil service personnel was amended by Law No. 19.299 (1971); Law No. 17.702 regulating the status of foreign service personnel was replaced by Law No. 19.300 (1971).

Law No. 15.240 (1959) creating the Consejo Nacional de Educación Técnica was amended by Law No. 19.206 (1971). Law No. 19.211 (1971) grants a monthly pension to holders of the Nobel Prize.

A national fund for electrical works was established by Law No. 19.287 (1971).

On April 4, 1972, provisions of the Commercial Code (1889) dealing with corporations was amended by a Law of Business Associations to be included in the Code, repealing art. 41 and 282 to 448 of the Code as well as a number of additional laws (No. 3.528, 4.157, 5.125, 6.788, 8.875, 11.645; art. 200 of Law No. 11.719, Law 17.318, Decree No. 852 of 1955, Decree No. 5.567 of 1956, Decree No. 3.329 of 1963, and art. 7 and 8 of Law No. 19.060). The first chapter contains rules for business associations generally while the second chapter deals with various types of associations in particular (partnerships, commandite associations, corporations,
and limited liability firms). Particularly innovative are provisions affecting corporations in regard to their establishment, issuance of shares, protection of minorities, administration, and the consejo de vigilancia as an organ of shareholders to control the activities of the corporation. A summary of the main features of the new enactment will appear in the forthcoming issue.

The acquisition of motorcars by handicapped persons is to be facilitated by Law No. 19.279 (1971), implemented by decree No. 4.479 (1971). An Instituto de Servicios Sociales Bancarios was created within the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor, for banking personnel, by Law No. 19.322 (1971). Law No. 18.610 (1971, 4 Law.Am. 61, 1971) on social services was implemented by a regulation (Decree No. 4.714, 1971). An institute for social services for the personnel of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor was established (Law No. 19.330, 1971), to provide for medical care (art. 4). Furthermore, an Instituto Nacional de Acción Mutual was set up by Law No. 19.331 (1971) to supervise mutual institutions engaged in social, educational, organizational, legal, financial and similar activities (art. 2). Retirement benefits for flying personnel are regulated by Law 19.346 (1971). Finally, an Instituto de Servicios Sociales para Jubilados was set up by Law No. 19.465 (1972).

The administration of hospitals and related institutions was decentralized by Law No. 19.337 (1971).

Law No. 19.303 (1971) designed to combat misuse of narcotics was implemented by a regulation (Decree No. 4.589, 1971).

A Comisión Organizadora del Sistema Nacional de Empadronamiento (COSNE) is charged with preparing voter registers and providing a system to keep them up-to-date (Law No. 19.347, 1971).

Labor unions shall deposit their funds in state, provincial or municipal banks (Law No. 19.273, 1971).

Law No. 19.359 (1971) provides penalties for violations of foreign currency regulations in the amount of three to five times the amounts involved for the first offense and for repeaters imprisonment up to 8 years and fine not to exceed 10 million pesos (art. 3). An amnesty was promulgated for false registration of other than one's own children (art. 139, 293 of the Criminal Code) by Law No. 19.216 (1971). Law No. 19.271, (1971) amended art. 37 to 42 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.


Prices frozen by Law No. 19.230 (1971, 4 Law.Am. 60, 1972) have been further freed by Law No. 19.432 (1971), provided changes in costs
are shown to be due to increases in prices of fuel, lubricants, electricity, water and telephone. New price regulations for beef appear in Law No. 19.440 (1972).

Increases in salaries generally are now regulated by Law No. 19.403 (1972). Persons working in private employment and civil service (Decree No. 6.338, 1972) have their salaries increased by 15% the first, and 10% more in the second half of 1972. Particular provisions apply to personnel employed by public financial institutions and savings institutions (Law No. 19.404, 1972); for members of the judiciary (Law No. 19.401, 1972) and for other personnel employed by the judicial branch (Law No. 19.402, 1972).

Art. 87 of the Immigration Regulation (Decree No. 4418, 1965), dealing with the status of aliens, was amended by Decree No. 3.206 (1971).

A Fondo Nacional de Autopistas was created (1972).

A new law (No. 19.511, 1972) implemented by a decree (No. 1.157, 1972) has established the Argentine legal metric system (SIMELA), to be administered by the Oficina Nacional de Metrologia Legal within the Ministry of Commerce. According to art. 15 the manufacture, importation, sale, offer, advertising, announcement or display of instruments for measuring in measures other than SIMELA is prohibited; instead, all such instruments must be submitted for approval by the Oficina.

The law regarding control over legal entities (No. 18.805, 4 Law. Am. 60, 1972) has been further implemented by Resolución No. 41 with respect to reporting general assemblies.

Betting on sporting events (pronósticos deportivos) was introduced by Law No. 19.336 (1972), the profits to be administered by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor (art. 3).

Any agreement between institutions subordinate to the State, provinces, or municipalities, and institutions, public or private, domiciled abroad or located in Argentina but operating with financial means originating abroad, involving financial transactions and affecting the national Treasury, will be controlled by the Ministry of Finance.

An extradition convention with the United States was signed (1972); an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany regarding entry of nuclear vessels in Argentine ports, signed at Buenos Aires on May 21, 1971, was approved by Law No. 19.244 (1971).

About to be signed into law is a new bankruptcy act. Under discussion is a law to establish a Consejo Nacional Económico y Social as an
advisory body to the government, composed of 20 representatives of organized labor and 20 representing industry, commerce and agriculture; also a draft for a minors' code; a project of national law regulating telecommunications; of the Bar (foro de abogados); and one regulating the representation of professors and students in university administrations.

Buenos Aires

The judiciary Act (No. 5,287) was amended by Law No. 7,724 (1971). Recently, the principle of oral procedure was introduced in civil and commercial proceedings.

Catamarca

Price-freeze was decreed (Decree No. 864, 1971).

Chaco

Rules applicable to registration of births in the civil register have been amended (Decree No. 1,074, 1971).

Chubud

The law regarding economic development took effect (Law No. 842, 1971). The law regarding homesteads (No. 427) was amended (Law No. 857, 1971).

Cordoba

Notarial fees were amended (Law No. 5,245, 1971); so was the law regarding municipal government (Law No. 5,286, 1971). The office of the Attorney General was regulated (Law No. 4,119, 1971). Commutation of penalties is possible under Law No. 5,304 (1971).

Corrientes

Notarial functions have been modified by Law No. 2,974 (1971); also the judiciary act (Law No. 2,990, 1971).

Entre Rios

The Superior Court has issued directives regarding the Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 4,843, 1971). Tax procedures are regulated by Law 5,049 (1971).
Formosa

Labor courts will operate in the province (Law No. 515, 1971).

Jujuy

Moratorium for subdivision of lands was decreed by Decree-Law No. 6-U (1971).

Mendoza

Mining taxes have been changed by Law No. 3.737 (1971); the Tax Code generally by Law No. 3.742 (1971). A new industrial development act was passed (Law No. 3.767, 1971).

Rio Negro

Valuation of homesteads is now regulated by Law No. 678 (1971); a model corporate charter was issued (Decree No. 772, 1971).

Salta

Labor courts are regulated by Law No. 4.419 (1971).

San Luis

Property registers shall follow national law in this matter, i.e., Law No. 17.801 (Law No. 3.394, 1971).

Santa Fé

A new Code of Labor Procedure was enacted (1972).

BARBADOS

Among recent enactments the following amended existing legislation: the Gas Works Act of 1911 (No. 37, 1971); the Social Security Act of 1966 (No. 36, 1971); the Tenancies (Control and Development) Act of 1965 (No. 34, 1971); and the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act of 1938 (No. 33, 1971). The overseas service agreement regulations of 1971 (S.I. No. 144) took effect.

The Insurance Act (No. 36, 1970) was implemented by a regulation (S.I. No. 18, 1972) dealing with forms and fees involving securities and assets of insurers (S.I. No. 13, 1972).

The Severance Payments Act (No. 24, 1971, 4 Law.Am. 65, 1972) provides for payments (schedule No. 1) to employees between 16 and 65 years of age (art. 4), with more than two years of service (art. 2, schedule No. 2), except those in civil service, on fishing vessels, working under a fixed contract for more than two years, employed by the spouse or in domestic work as members of the family, also "under a contract for the performance of services," or under the Sugar Factory Severance Payments Act (No. 7, 1965) which remains in force (art. 14). Severance payments accrue upon dismissal due to redundancy (art. 4), i.e., termination or restriction of the business or natural disaster (art. 3) or lay-off (art. 6). The effect of the transfer of business (art. 9) as well as the death of either party are regulated (schedule No. 5). Payments shall come from a fund (art. 24) provided by employer's contributions added under the National Insurance and Social Security Act (No. 15, 1966). Payments are made to employers by the Minister of Labor (art. 30).

BOLIVIA

The new Bolivian investment law, enacted on December 10, 1971, provides for special treatment of new investments by domestic and foreign capital (art. 1) made in accordance with this law (art. 57 to 71), provided investments are made in one of the following branches: industry, mining, agriculture, cattle industry, renewable natural resources, construction, and tourism; investments in oil and gas industries will be regulated by special legislation (art. 1). After stating general objectives for economic development and definitions (art. 7), the law provides that new investments in capital or credit, the latter for more than two years (art. 4), will have to consist of installations of new production units with modern technology or in modernization or expansion of existing plants (art. 5). Strategic industries (i.e., metallurgical, siderurgical and petrochemical) in their basic phases, as defined in art. 9, will be developed by the State through its own enterprises and with participation of public capital; in cases of minority participation of such capital, a progressive transfer of private domestic and foreign capital into public housing must be stipulated (art. 8). Incentives to investments under the new law consist of tax benefits, among them, customs duties (art. 11 to 13), favorable depreciation rates (art. 16), exemptions from taxes on buildings for ten years as well as from transfer taxes (art. 17), and of other benefits, including granting or leasing of public lands (art. 20). The percentage of benefits vary according to the branch where
investments are made and are determined for industry (art. 25 to 32),
according to classifications set up in art. 27; for mining in art. 33; for
agriculture and related branches in art. 34; for construction in art. 35;
for tourism in art. 36; and for reinvestments in art. 37. The law also guar-
antees availability and convertibility of local currency to the currency in
which the investment was made (art. 38). Generally, investors will not be
affected by any changes in taxes or royalties during the next seven years
(art. 29). The investment law will be administered by the National Invest-
ment Institute (I.N.I.) through a Board of Directors consisting of the
Ministers of Industry and Commerce, of Finance, and of Planning and
Coordination while the private sector will be represented by the Confedera-
tion of Private Enterprises (art. 44). Investors taking advantage of the
new law also assume duties, among them to keep a satisfactory accounting
system; to submit annual financial statements; to cooperate with the au-
thorities; to permit inspections of their offices and plants; to report on their
export policies; and to facilitate quality production control by the Depart-
ment of Standards and Technology of the Ministry of Industry and Com-
merce (art. 72).

A convention on technical and cultural cooperation was signed with
Israel (April 13, 1972).

BRAZIL

A new law dealing with patents and trademarks was promulgated
(Law No. 5.772, December 21, 1971), replacing Decree-Law No. 1.005

The Banco Nacional de Habitação was changed from a federal institu-
tion to a public company (Law No. 5.762, December 14, 1971); its
functions remain unchanged.

A new law (No. 5.709, October 17, 1971) regulates the acquisition
of agricultural land by resident aliens or foreign legal entities authorized
to do business in Brazil. An alien may not acquire land in excess of 50
units, regardless whether in one or more lots, the size of the unit to be set
by the government. Foreign legal entities, i.e., those of which the majority
of the capital is held by aliens or alien corporate entities resident or
domiciled abroad may acquire agricultural land only to establish agricul-
tural or industrial enterprises, provided their charters authorize such
activities. The acquisition of land by individuals or legal entities must
be by a public deed. The new law replaces Decree-Law No. 494 of 1969
and No. 924 of 1969.
Law No. 5.710 (October 7, 1971) provides that financial institutions are authorized to issue or convert non-voting preferred shares into bearer shares; the law also allows public financial institutions to have 50% of their capital in non-voting preferred bearer or nominative shares.

Pursuant to Decree-Law No. 2.627/40, amendments in the charters of foreign companies need approval by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (Decree No. 69.827, December 22, 1971); this rule does not affect acts involving initial authorization, nationalization or liquidation.

Law No. 5.692, (1971) sets guidelines for primary and secondary education. The law also regulates duties imposed on commercial, industrial and agricultural enterprises to provide for free education of their employees and their children directly or by paying an "educational salary."

The Minister of Finance through its International Assistance Office and the Attorney General representing the national treasury will—in pursuance of Decrees No. 62.700 (1968) and No. 65.071 (1969)—intervene in negotiations involving loans or other financial arrangements in foreign currency, to be guaranteed by public means. Such transactions will be approved by the Foreign Loans Commission (CEMPEX) and filed with the Central Bank (Ordinance No. 31, 1972).

A special development program was set up for the São Francisco Valley (PROVALE) with financing expanded over a number of years starting in 1972 (Decree-Law No. 1.207, 1972).

Law No. 5.726 (October 29, 1971) deals with narcotics and provides for special judicial proceedings. The law was implemented by a regulation.

The Ministry of Transportation is authorized to render technical assistance to friendly countries, under a program administered by the Department of National Ports and Navigable Waterways and of the National Railways (Decree-Law No. 1.206, 1972).

The International Wheat Convention (Geneva, 1971) was ratified (Decree No. 70.222, 1972).

Brazil has ratified the Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft signed at The Hague in 1970.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Antigua

The Press Bills have received Governor's assent. One of them requires a license from the Cabinet to publish a newspaper and to pay an annual fee (3 Law.Am. 521, 1971).
Bahamas

Among recently assented acts, the following may be mentioned: the Telecommunications Corporation (Amendment) Act (No. 33, 1971); the Registrar General (Amendment) Act (No. 20, 1971); the Companies (Amendment) Act (No. 31, 1971); the Bahamas Bar Act (No. 36, 1971); and the Consular Relations and Commonwealth Officers (Amendment) Act (No. 38, 1971).

Cayman Islands

The Constitutional Commissioner suggested only little changes in the present administrative organization, particularly since there is no demand for independent status. Subsequently, the Assembly accepted the offer by the United Kingdom's government that the status of the administrator be raised to that of governor.

Grenada

Plans are under way to enforce provisions against persons working without a proper permit; the government also intends to take action against "loiterers and idlers."

In the throne speech the Governor emphasized the need to improve education and continue agricultural development as well as aid to the fishing industry. Special consideration will be given to consumer cooperatives; legislation shall be introduced to roll back prices of certain consumer goods. A Workers' Bank is being considered as is a national provident fund and an insurance scheme.

Montserrat

For the time being the island will not change its status of a crown colony.

St. Kitts

Attacks on the establishment of the Press and Publication Board continue here and on other islands.

St. Vincent

The government sponsored bill, entitled the Public Service (Condition of Employment) Act (1971), prohibiting civil servants from acting as editors of any periodical publication or contributing to it, has met with
sustained criticism. The bill imposes additional limitations on civil servants, particularly in regard to speaking or taking active part at public meetings or acting on behalf of candidates for elective offices.

The governor indicated that legislation will be introduced to remove certain disabilities of extramarital children.

A new banking law is being discussed.

Virgin Islands

An Order in Council (1971) amended the Constitution by elevating the administrator to the status of governor.

CANADA

A special committee of Parliament found that a new constitution is needed but without offering in its voluminous report any sweeping changes, preferring, in the words of a member, politically obtainable aims rather than indulgence in theoretical discussions of an ideal constitution. Proposals contain a bill of rights, designation of both English and French as official languages, and the extension of the powers of the federal government in the field of old age benefits and in economic matters, including wage and price controls. Nevertheless, broad autonomy should be granted to provinces in local affairs, particularly those affecting social and cultural matters.

Among others, the following bills have been consented to: Canada Development Act; Pilotage Act; Employment Support Act; Weather Modification Information Act; Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act; the Bail Reform Act; Clean Air Act; Animal Contagious Diseases Act; Investment Companies Act; Pesticide Residue Compensation Act; Quarantine Act; Tax Revenue Board Act, and the Textile Labelling Act. A number of existing acts have been amended, among them: Labor (Standards) Code; Post Office Act; Prairie Grain Advance Payment Act; Judges Act; Financial Administration Act; Copyright Act; Old Age Security Act; Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act, and the National Transportation Act.

The amendment to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention (1949) took effect.

Alberta

The following acts took effect: Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Alberta Environment Research Trust Act; and the Energy Resources Conservation Act.
British Columbia

The Mortgage Brokers Act took effect while the Fish Inspection Act of 1969 was amended.

Manitoba

Among others, amendments to the following acts, including delayed effect of others, have been consented to: Animal Husbandry Act; Automobile Insurance Act; Civil Service Superannuation Act; Cooperative Associations Loans and Loans Guarantee Act; County Courts Act; Farm Machinery and Equipment Act; Insurance Act; Jury Act; Liquor Control Act; Hearing Aid Act; Highway Traffic Act; Unsatisfied Judgment Fund Act; Wives and Children Maintenance Act; Legal Aid Services Society Act, and the Jurisdiction Act.

New Brunswick

The Trustees Act was amended, as were the Public Service Superannuation Act; the Social Welfare Act; and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Newfoundland

The amendment to the Gasoline Tax Act entered into force.

Nova Scotia

The Statistics Act, the Atlantic Institute of Education Act and the Resources Development Board Act took effect; so did the amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act.

Ontario

Consented to: Mortgage Brokers Act; Compensation for Victims of Crime Act; and the Hotel Fire Safety Act. Amended: the Consumer Protection Act; Department of Education Act; the Health Services Insurance Act; the Administration of Justice Act; the Executive Council Act; the Insurance Act; the Venereal Diseases Prevention Act; and the Income Tax Act.

Prince Edward Island

Among others, the following act came into force: the Lending Authority Act.
Amendments to the Civil Code have been assented to. One lowers the age of majority from 21 to 18 years. In consequence, such persons need no parental consent to marry and may execute a will. In sales of immovables which are part of an inheritance accepted under the benefit of inventory and are worth more than 2,000 dollars, the consent of the interested parties shall replace that of the family council under art. 890 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Another amendment has abolished civil death renamed in 1906 as civil degradation. The same act also regulates gifts of organs for transplant, provided risk assumed is not disproportionate; however, the arrangement must be gratuitous, except where the organ involved has the capacity of regeneration. Every person of age may settle the manner of his funeral and the disposal of his body; the same right is granted to minors sui compos, provided they have parental consent. The act authorizes physicians to remove parts of a dead body with the consent of the spouse or the nearest relative, unless forbidden by the deceased; such consent is not required if two physicians who have no part in the removal or transfer certify in writing that it is impossible to obtain consent in time, that the operation is urgent and that there is serious expectation that a human life may thereby be saved.

Also assented to was the Crime Victims Compensation Act in favor of persons injured by certain crimes, as well as persons injured while assisting a peace officer in the performance of his duties; persons injured while arresting a person committing an offense; persons injured while preventing or attempting to prevent an offense, and persons who are dependents of those killed in these circumstances.

An Act regarding health and social services established the right of individuals to receive adequate, continuous and personal services meeting scientific, human and social requirements taking into consideration the organization and resources of the respective institutions; such services must be offered without discrimination and without limiting the right to choose the institution or professional expected to render the services. Medical records of patients are confidential; only the patient has access, except upon the order of the attending physician. Institutions offering health and social services, public or private, are divided into four classes: local community service centers; hospitals; social service centers, and reception centers.

A number of other acts took effect, among them the Religious Corporations Act; the Real Estate Assessment Act; the Petroleum Products
Trade Act, while other acts have been amended, among them the Act to promote conciliation between lessees and property owners; the Municipal Code; the Education Act; the Industrial Funds Act; the Lands and Forest Act; and the Cities and Towns Act.

A number of acts are before the legislature, among them the Juvenile Delinquents Act; the Criminal Code (abolition of corporal punishment) attempt to commit suicide; pollution, vagrancy, air piracy) and the Act regulating disclosure of drug addicts.

Saskatchewan

The Labor Standards Act was amended.

CHILE

Art. 10, section 10 of the Constitution, as amended in 1971 (3 Law. Am. 525, 1971) is to be further implemented by amendments submitted to the President on February 21, 1972 (Act No. 12.426 of the Senate). Following the general principle of the social function of property, an extensive insertion deals with the overall structure of the economy as divided into three sectors. Enterprises providing goods or services shall be, by legislative acts, allocated to the social, mixed or private sectors. The first includes enterprises which belong to the society as a whole with the title vested in the State or any of its agencies; the mixed section belongs jointly to the State, including its agencies, and to private parties. The third section embraces enterprises which do not belong to either of the former two. Generally, workers shall have the right to participate in the administration of enterprises belonging to any of the three sectors. A law shall determine the enterprises whose administration shall be in the hands of the workers, regardless of which sector the particular enterprise belongs to. As owners, workers shall have the enjoyment of the assets and share in the profits. Their representatives shall be chosen by direct, secret, one-vote, proportional elections. Appropriate enactments shall allocate such enterprises to any of the three sections and guarantee workers' rights, including protection against unwarranted dismissals. The same art. 10, section 10 of the Constitution is to be further implemented by identifying economic activities reserved to the State or its agencies, or shall operate as mixed workers' enterprises, or by concession to private parties. These economic activities are: mining of copper, iron, nitrate, coal and other minerals; insurance and reinsurance, except by cooperatives; railways; transportation by air and sea; postal services and telegraph; electricity, except by cooperatives; natural gas; oil; cement, steel, saltpeter and iodine as well as large chemical

The National Planning Office has been reorganized by a decree (D.O. March 7, 1972). Law No. 17,597 (1972) adjusted family allowances for civil servants, including those employed in the social security administration.

Law No. 11,622 regarding leases of residential and commercial units was extensively amended by Law No. 17,600 (1972).

Law No. 17,066 (1971) regulating the social security of merchants has been amended so as to include small industrialists, carriers and others, Law No. 17,592, (1972).
Law No. 17.578 (1971) authorizes the President to issue a regulation for the State Technical University; the law also includes amendments of the present regulation. Law No. 17.618 (1972) promulgates new rules for the election of representatives to the Rector's Consejo Normativo Superior of the University of Chile.

Law No. 17.063 (1971) amended art. 88 of Decree No. 338 (1960) dealing with vacations of employees. Now, persons with 25 or more years of service or 60 years or more of age shall have 30 days vacation annually.

Labor unions will, in pursuance of art. 10 of the amended Constitution (3 Law.Am. 525, 1971) acquire legal existence by filing their constitution with the Inspección Departamental del Trabajo (Law No. 17.584, 1972). The Labor Code (1948) was amended by Law No. 17.574 (1971) dealing with labor courts; affected are art. 495 to 501, 507, 511, 516, 517, 520, 526, 529, 531, 535, 540, 579, 580, 584, 586, and 607.

A convention with the Soviet Union for cooperation in the development of the fishing industry, signed at Santiago on September 6, 1971, was approved (D.O. March 7, 1972).


Law No. 17.628 (1972) established the Colegio de Geólogos de Chile.

The Ministry of Mining has issued decrees to implement the nationalization of copper mines. Decree No. 116 (1971) deals mainly with powers granted to administrative commissions to include those "necessary for the normal functioning of these enterprises," which extension of powers shall comply with "general principles of law." Particular doubts have arisen in regard to alienation of housing units to workers and the representation in court of the enterprises. In essence, the decree provides that the administrative commission is represented by its president; however, powers listed in art. 7, para. 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure (1902) are vested in the commission and may be exercised only upon written authority of the vice-president of the Corporación del Cobre (art. 1). The Commission may alienate any type of movable property, provided such alienation is necessary in the normal functioning of the enterprise; in addition, it may alien-
ate housing units and building areas in favor of workers. Another decree (No. 123, 1971) contains detailed rules regarding workers' participation in the Gran Mineria del Cobre and Compañía Minera Andina. An administrative council was established (art. 1), consisting of 15 members: seven representatives of the State appointed by the President of the Republic; seven representing workers elected by direct vote; and one representative of the State appointed by the President and designated by the Corporación del Cobre (art. 2). Workers' representatives shall be elected and recalled according to a regulation (art. 3); the representatives of the State are appointed by the President (art. 4). The Council shall approve plans for investments, production and operation within directives set by the Corporación del Cobre, and act as a unit. The president of the council, in his capacity as the general manager, is charged with executive duties. In particular, the Council determines general policy, regulates controls and operations, represents the enterprise, organizes the internal administration, hires and fires its personnel, approves plant regulations, and in general, contracts at home or abroad, a power minutely circumscribed. The Council may also alienate housing units or land for construction in favor of workers, as well as movables up to the amount of one hundred sueldos vitales applicable in Santiago (art. 8). Art. 9 lists powers vested in the president of the council. Decree No. 124 (1972) orders suspension of payments on the loan from the Braden Copper Company unless the loan is shown to have been usefully invested as found by the President in accordance with the constitutional amendment (Law No. 17,450, 3 Law. Am. 525, 1971). Subsequent Decree No. 7 (1972) held that the loan given to El Teniente in the amount of $80,000,000 was not so invested and the repayment due in the amount of $8,125,000 was stopped.

Dealings in foreign currency will be entrusted to authorized banks to act as agents of the Banco Central (Acuerdo, D.O. December 13, 1971). As such, they will operate in two markets: banking and brokers'. In the former, banks may purchase foreign currency (divisas) coming from exports and from "invisible" foreign commerce (services, etc.); in the latter, they may sell in advance foreign currency for imports and other transfers abroad. For each market, an exchange rate is set, depending on the type of goods involved, and arranged into classes of which Class A, for example, includes food and oil, C machinery and other means of production, and D consumer goods. Special provisions apply to "invisible" foreign trade as do currency transactions involving loans and incoming capital as well as insurance premiums for vessels and aircraft, and dividends. In the brokers' market, banks may buy currencies unrelated to foreign commerce and sell them for payments authorized to be made abroad.
The forced loan, introduced by Law No. 16.480 (art. 225 to 227) and Law No. 17.073 (art. 3) will not be repaid in 1972 and 1973, as provided by Law No. 17.416 (art. 71). Nevertheless, contributors may deduct the amounts from their taxes as costs (Law No. 17.564, 1971).

The Ministry of Economy, Development and Reconstruction requires (Resolución No. 17, D.O. April 10, 1972) wholesalers within Valparaiso, who warehouse merchandise needed for common consumption, to certify under oath the number of their shops, their location and the quantities of merchandise kept there, and to submit the information to the local office of the Ministry.

Law No. 17.625 (1972) authorizes the following service institutions, namely the Corporación de Servicios Habitacionales, the Corporación de Mejoramiento Urbano, and the Corporación de Obras Urbanas, to demand payment of credits due them (art. 1) in regular courts (art. 2), with defenses listed in art. 12.

A new salary schedule was enacted for the personnel of the Ministry of Defense, for the Carabineri, and for the General Office of Investigations (D.O. April 7, 1972).

Regulations of the Special (Copper) Tribunal and its procedure pursuant to art. 17(c) of the transitory provisions of the constitutional amendment of 1971 (3 Law.Am. 525, 1971), dated September 18, 1971, appear translated in II Int'l Leg. Mat. 147 (1972).

In his annual report (D.O. March 14, 1972), the President of the Supreme Court emphasized the importance of an independent judiciary. He decried "angry attacks and criticism from various political groups, particularly against this court and some of its members," by taking advantage of all the means of communication to "criticize bitterly some of the court's decisions and procedural steps insinuating political bias." The President rejected such accusations believing in the "serenity with which the judiciary exercises its complex mission." "Bringing politics into court . . . expressed in filthy insults combined with the most abominable slanders," prompted the President to warn that the "spiritual reserves of a nation cannot be destroyed by such despicable methods," adding that "all this wickedness will be punished some day." The President affirmed he would not be dragged into day-to-day political disputes because the position of the judiciary is weakened in advance. Its critics "launch attacks against an unaware opponent, unarmed, because we, as judges, must suffer stoically all kinds of insults while we are deprived of the basic means of defense." The judiciary being the only guaranty of law and freedom throughout
history, it retains the duty to "preserve its high traditions, without abandoning duties imposed, as painfully as this may affect our lives as men."
The President then turned to necessary reforms of the law in view of changes in the structure of the society; among them the criminal law.
Referring to amendments to the Judiciary Act (Law No. 17,590) the President expressed strong reservations about popular courts (tribunales vecinales) (3 Law.Am. 287, 1971), but recommended necessary measures to facilitate access to the courts by the disadvantaged.

COLOMBIA

Decree No. 2.349 (1971) established the Dirección General Marítima y Portuaria, replacing the Dirección de Marina Mercante. The Dirección has jurisdiction (art. 12) over maritime activities within the territorial waters, adjacent seas, the soil and subsoil of the continental shelf as well as over ports and internal waters, involving navigation, scientific fishing, by domestic and foreign vessels, including research in and extraction of resources of the sea and the continental shelf (art. 13). Crews of domestic vessels must consist of at least 80% Colombians properly qualified; aliens may be hired with the approval of the Dirección (art. 17); their qualification will only be recognized on the basis of international agreements (art. 20). Crews of foreign vessels operating in Colombian waters for more than six months must comply with art. 17. The registration and control of vessels will be exercised by the Dirección according to art. 1.429 to 1.910 of the Commercial Code enacted by 1971 (3 Law.Am. 528, 1971). Special provisions apply to vessels acquired abroad (art. 25). Maritime accidents involving Colombian vessels generally and foreign vessels in Colombian waters are investigated by port authorities (art. 39) and claims decided by any of the Tribunal de Capitanes established in every port (art. 40) under proceedings set out in art. 44 to 74. Transportation involving carriers operating Colombian vessels are regulated by art. 75 to 86, with special provisions regarding cooperation with foreign carriers (art. 80) and with carriers-members of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Armadores (art. 81). Further provisions deal with the use of coastal lands (art. 87 to 102 and Law No. 15 of 1876); with maritime and coastal explorations (art. 103 to 109); and with wrecks, including treasures (art. 110 to 121), regulating also cooperation with foreigners (art. 114). Art. 122 to 127 contain penal and art. 128 to 132 general and transitory provisions.

Law No. 10 (1972) established a special administrative status for the Archipelago of San Andrés and Providencia.

Law No. 47 (1971) created the Fondo de Inmuebles Nacionales to handle the acquisition and maintenance of governmental buildings.
Law No. 46 (1971) provides for sharing by departments and other administrative agencies, including the District of Bogota, in at least 13% of general budgetary resources.

Standards regarding quality, weight and measures for the industry have been promulgated by Decree No. 2.416 (1971).

The Ministry of Public Health issued two resolutions (No. 0329 and 0330, 1971) to combat air pollution. Para-medical professions of microbiologists, bacteriologists and clinical labmen have been regulated by Law No. 41 (1971).

Decree No. 2.424 (1971) authorizes the government to acquire “in the name of the nation” shares of the Banco de la República. The Superintendencia Bancaria (Circular No. 10, 1972) requires its approval for reinsurance contracts to transfer currency abroad. Decree No. 160 (1972) provides that 30% of open banking accounts of public institutions shall be invested in bonds for economic development.

Among the resolutions of the Junta Monetaria the following may be mentioned. No. 98 (1971) deals with installments sales credits supplied by banking and commercial institutions; the required down payment is set at 40% for sales involving motor cars, small airplanes and boats (Class A), and 20% for all other durable consumer goods (Class B), provided that the price is more than 1000 pesos.

Resolution No. 13 (1972) regulates loans on foreign currency received by the Banco de la República. Resolution No. 43 (1971) sets the maximum interest rate for loans by the Caja de Crédito Agrario and by banking institutions involved in subdivisions at 16%. Resolution No. 87 (1971) requires registration of foreign loans to private parties and connected deposits. Resolution No. 92 (1971) set at 100% of the paid-in capital as the basis for discounts available to new financial corporations. A Fondo de Contratistas de Obras Públicas was established by Resolution No. 99 (1971) to discount banking loans to such contractors.

Employment offices are now regulated by Decree No. 2.676 (1971), requiring a license from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

Decree No. 2.677 (1971) authorizes enterprises to change pensions through the Instituto Colombiano de Seguros Sociales (art. 1) in cases where a domestic or foreign enterprise with pending legal or contractual retirement obligations closes, liquidates or is in a state of critical loss of capital, or of reduction of business which may affect the right of workers (art. 2). In handling such situations, the Instituto will distinguish between
retirement rights acquired after more than ten years and others (art. 3). Proceedings may be initiated by workers, by the enterprise or by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security ex officio (art. 4).

Provisions of the new Commercial Code (1971, 3 Law Am. 528, 1971) have been included in the manual of aviation regulations, namely art. 1774, 1803, 1817, 1858, and 1901. Pertinent provisions of the manual also have been adjusted to art. 1797 and 1823 of the Code (Resolution No. 3748, 1971).

Law No. 40 (1971) is designed to protect the cities of Manizales, Salamina, and Aranzazu by setting up a corporation to administer proper urbanization and development plans.

Law No. 41 (1969) regulating the profession of economists has been implemented by a regulation (Decree No. 2.209, 1971).

Some 700 tariff items have been lowered by Decree No. 305 (1972).

Internal regulations for the Consejo de Estado have been promulgated by an acuerdo (D.O. No. 33.541, 1972).

The commercial agreement with the Republic of China, signed at Bogota on June 20, 1964 has been approved by Law No. 19 (1971); so was the treaty prohibiting atomic weapons in Latin America, signed at Mexico on February 14, 1967 (Law No. 45, 1971).

The Supreme Court of Justice ruled on January 20, 1972 that Decree No. 1.299 of 1971 (3 Law Am. 533, 1971) enforcing the Cartagena Agreement regarding foreign investments is inoperative (inexequible) (cf. 4 Law Am. 15, 1972).

COSTA RICA

Admission of persons with fixed income (rentistas) was authorized by Law No. 4.812 (1971). Such persons may import free of duties a motor vehicle as well as furniture and household items up to $7,000 in value. In order to qualify, such persons must show to have a permanent income of no less than U.S. $300 monthly which will remain free from income tax. However, they cannot be employed except by the government or other public, including educational institutions. They may also invest in Costa Rica with approval of the National Tourism Institute charged with the administration of this law.

A new fee schedule for public registers was enacted by Law No. 4.826 (1971), superseding Law No. 4.564 (1970).
Law No. 4.856 (1971) amended the Organic Law regarding Agriculture and the Sugar Cane Industry [Law No. 3.579 (1965)].

Law No. 4.903 (1971) imposes upon private employers with more than 20 employees the duty to hire apprentices at a ratio of 5% of the total work force, to avoid a fine. Apprentices shall not be under 15 or over 18 years of age; only under special circumstances may younger persons be apprenticed.

Law No. 4.891 (1971) contains rules for the application of the new Criminal Code (3 Law Am. 289, 1971). In essence the law aims at adapting the existing Code of Criminal Procedure to requirements introduced by the new Criminal Code, until the new Code of Criminal Procedure, now in the drafting stage, takes effect.

The National Banana Association was created by Law No. 4.895 (1971) to promote the banana industry through loans to producers. The State, domestic banks, and private enterprises, each holding a different class of shares will participate. In cases of loans to banana enterprises involving foreign transactions, the approval of the Central Bank is required.

The Organic Law regarding the Board of Engineers and Architects was amended by Law No. 4.925 (1971), imposing a tax according to the value of the planned construction.

Law No. 4.946 (1972) made tips (propinas) mandatory in the amount of 10% of the value of service rendered, including food and beverages above $1.50.

A new High Criminal Court was created by Law No. 4.958 (1972), to be added to the one already in existence.

Executive Decree No. 2.202-Re/72, declared as territorial waters (mar territorial) the sea up to 12 miles from the low tide along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. A subsequent decree (No. 2.204-Re/72) declared the area of 200 miles off the coast (including the 12 miles of territorial waters) as mar patrimonial where Costa Rica shall exercise special jurisdiction in order to protect natural resources. Fishing in this area shall be regulated by law, including activities by aliens.

An extensive enactment, the Ley de Emisión del Pensamiento, is before the legislature; it appears as addition No. 130 to Gaceta No. 243 (December 7, 1971).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In his recent report on the state of the Republic (February 27, 1972), the President submitted to the Legislature a set of significant bills, dealing
mainly with the agrarian reform. Most of them have been approved and signed by the President into law (G.O. No. 9,258, April 1, 1972). The first law (No. 282) is prefaced by a statement of underlying policies: the agrarian reform shall contribute to peace and stability as well as to the progress of democratic institutions and national security by “revolutionary measures constructive in nature to reduce the growing discontent among the disadvantaged masses, particularly in rural areas.” The law proclaims the transfer (art. 1) of unworked lands (tierras baldías) to be acquired by the State for the Dominican Agrarian Institute (I.A.D., Decree No. 5,879, 1962). The lands affected are defined as those not previously worked, or abandoned by their owners because of lack of working capital or because they have chosen more profitable activities (art. 1). The land will be paid 10% in cash and the rest in public bonds to be redeemed in no less than 10 years (art. 3).

Law No. 283 aims at the recovery of land owned by the State and presently in possession of private parties. The task is entrusted to a commission composed of lawyers and technicians (ingenieros), appointed by the President, to institute proper proceedings (art. 1), in cooperation with the Dominican Agrarian Institute (art. 2). Exempt are small plots (below 100 tareas, a tarea equals 1/6 acre). The Tribunal de Tierras will designate a special judge to hear such cases (art. 4), the work to be completed in two years (art. 5). Law 287 declares that the expiration of all lease contracts with private parties involving State-owned irrigated land beyond 100 tareas, whenever the distribution of such land among poor farmers, would be—in the opinion of the Dominican Agrarian Institute—desirable (art. 1). Exempt are leases to industry, education, tourism and air or maritime transportation (art. 2). Indemnity shall be negotiated between the Administración General de Bienes Nacionales and the interested parties, and payable in reasonable installments; however, even if difficulties arise, this shall not prevent the State from transferring title to interested parties (parceleros de la Reforma Agraria, art. 3).

No lease or similar contract (arrendamiento, aparcería, art. 1821, 1800 of the Civil Code, 1845, 1882) may be entered into in the future (Law No. 289) whenever they amount to an indirect exploitation of land under conditions below minimum living standards (art. 1). Every such contract shall be deemed to contain a clause giving the farming party option to purchase the land (art. 2). However, in cases of land below 300 tareas, the farming party will become owner with the State paying the price (art. 3). In case the land exceeds 300 tareas, the farming party in such contract may reduce his option to less land (art. 4). Of course, the new owner will reimburse the State in reasonable installments (art. 5).
These rules do not apply to land below 200 tareas owned by disadvantaged persons without other income (art. 6); also to owners who have other lands, assets or income, allowing them modest existence (art. 7). Generally, the law voids the following clauses in contracts within the scope of this law: to accept aid from owner; to sell products to him or to particular buyers; to waive rights under this law; to acquire machinery or other implements from enterprises belonging to the landowner or from particular plants or firms; to pay in kind or work; to waive claims for damages caused by the owner or his animals; to demand payment of rent in advance and, in cases of small and medium entrepreneurs, the termination of the contract in case of default (art. 10). At the expiration of the contract, the owner shall pay for all improvements which amount to "undue enrichment" (art. 11).

In view of the fact that the present production of rice satisfies domestic needs and, therefore, needs planning, Law No. 890 makes the transfer of land presently used for rice and irrigated by waterworks constructed by the State, to the Dominican Agrarian Institute a matter of national interest (art. 1). The rule applies only to owners with more than 500 tareas of such land (art. 2), while small farmers with less than 500 tareas are exempt; the latter shall be organized in an agrarian reform plan (art. 4). The acquisition of such land by the State will be indemnified 25% in cash, and the rest in public bonds, or by shares in public enterprises, or by land or housing owned by the State (art. 3). Owners of more than 500 tareas of land in the sense of art. 1, may retain 500 tareas provided they do not own other land or have sufficient income to provide for their families (art. 4).

Law No. 292 allows a period of three months to all persons holding State land without proper title (a título precario) to return it to the State (art. 1). Exceptions are allowed in case of significant improvements (art. 2) or in respect to land below 500 tareas with irrigation built at their own expense (art. 3).

The presidential bill dealing with latifundia encountered difficulties when discussed by the Legislature regarding the very definition of such holdings. Pursuant to the constitutional prohibition of latifundia (art. 8 sec. 13) the draft included any land exceeding 50,000 tareas, except sugar plantations; nevertheless, even such lands may be exempt if they present an economic advantage ascertained by a special commission. Amendments adopted in the Legislature lowered the area required and scheduled such qualification according to seven classes of land depending on its quality.
Another law in this series introduced workers' participation in profits (Law No. 288). Agricultural, industrial, commercial and mining enterprises shall share 10% of their net profits, before taxes, with their permanent employees and workers in an amount not to exceed their monthly salary (art. 1). Enterprises which presently grant bonuses and similar benefits may include them in the legal 10% share, except the Christmas bonus pursuant to Law No. 5235 (1959), which may not be reduced if it should exceed the legal share (art. 1, para. III). Exempt are the following enterprises (art. 2): those in free zones (class A, Law No. 299 on Industrial Incentive and Protection, 1968); enterprises within the scope of art. 56 of Law No. 532 regarding Development of Agriculture and Cattle Industry (1969), valued at less than DR $75,000; enterprises established under Law No. 153 for Promotion and Incentives for Touristic Development (1971, 3 Law. Am. 536, 1971); and all agricultural, industrial or mining (but not commercial) enterprises established within three years since the promulgation of this law (art. 3). The law also provides an optional housing plan (art. 5) to be financed with 40% of voluntarily assigned shares, with the State providing an amount of 50% of such contribution (art. 6).

In the area of housing, Law No. 286 authorizes the transfer of housing held by the State and valued under DR $20,000, to present occupants, provided they are disadvantaged families, the price of the house to be paid in installments equal to the present rent (art. 1). Civil service employees qualify provided their salary is below DR $300 monthly (art. 1, para. 2). From the moment of the transfer, repair and maintenance falls on the new owners (art. 2). Once the price is paid, the house becomes automatically homestead property (art. 3).

Eight additional courts will be functioning in the capital according to a law passed by the Legislature, namely an additional chamber for civil and commercial matters, two for criminal and two positions for investigating judges, thus amending art. 43 of the Judiciary Act (1927). In his annual report, the President of the Supreme Court stressed the need for constitutional and legal safeguards to assure greater independence of the judiciary, including life tenure for judges.

Regulations have been promulgated for the Dirección Nacional de Turismo (Decree No. 1.869, 1972) and for tourist guides (Decree No. 1.871, 1972).

Pursuant to Resolution No. 5, adopted by the Junta Monetaria (February 10, 1971), limiting to 18% the amount of profits which may be
annually remitted abroad by foreign investors, the Junta has now decided to allow such remittance only in regard to foreign investments in agriculture, industry, mining, tourism, transportation, communications, and financial institutions established under Law No. 292 (June 30, 1966). However, this rule does not apply to investments already established in the Republic and registered with the Banco Central, regardless of the branch of economy involved. The allowed ceiling of 18% remittable abroad from profits earned by investments in foreign currency will be determined from the net value of the particular investment, meaning the net value of the amounts registered as initial investment plus additional amounts in foreign currency, including reinvestments, minus repatriated capital (Resolution, January 16, 1972).

Law No. 173 regarding protection of agents importing foreign merchandise (April 6, 1966) was amended by Law No. 263 (31 December, 1971) so as to include also local agents or representatives of foreign firms which offer services in the Republic, among them in air and maritime transportation. The new law defines the local representative (concesionario) as one importing, marketing or selling goods or services, including any other kind of traffic in, or exploitation of merchandise or goods originating abroad even when they are produced locally (art. 1, a); the foreign principal (concedente, art. 1, c) is the one whom the agent represents when engaged in the above mentioned activities, directly or through others. The just cause to terminate such relationships (art. 1, d) is the nonperformance of the contract or any other act or omission which adversely affects the interests of the foreign principal. The amendment also establishes directives for the evaluation of promotional activities of the agent (art. 3, c). Further provisions deal with the principal's local production of marketed merchandise (art. 4); with questions arising from exclusive arrangements (art. 5), and imposes joint liability for claims arising under this law on those who acquire the principal's enterprise or merchandise (art. 6). The law also makes (art. 1) the rights arising under it dependent on the filing of foreign firms with the Central Bank.

An aviation agreement with Italy was signed (1972).

EL SALVADOR

Salaries for government employees in 1972 are set by a legislative decree (No. 471, 1971). Amendments to the tax law regarding valuations are contained in another legislative decree (No. 458, 1971).

Art. 32 of the law on notaries public has been amended (Decree No. 474, 1971).
The administration of the fund for small industry (3 Law. Am. 60 and 539, 1971) is regulated by a decree (No. 45, 1971).

Ratified was the Protocol to the Convention regarding the Establishment of the Central-American Development Bank (Decree No. 480, 1971); the convention regarding cotton products (Geneva, 1962); and an agreement with the Republic of China on technical and agricultural cooperation.

FRENCH ANTILLES AND GUYANA

Decrees dealing with industrial development (No. 61-623, 1961, and No. 65-1005, 1965) have been amended by Decree No. 71-850 (1971).

Contributions to social security under Decree No. 67-1230 (1967) have increased (Decree, December 10, 1971); an arrêté (No. 30, 1971) modified regulations dealing with minimum wages. Decree No. 71-980 (1971) deals with professional education.

Aid to the elderly and sick according to Decree No. 54-1128 (1954) has been increased by Decree No. 71-1008 (1971). Family allowances and support to handicapped minors and adults are regulated by Decree No. 72-83 (art. 23, 1972); Decree No. 72-85 (1972) provides for educational support.

Law No. 71-1130 (1971) modified rules regarding the judicial and legal professions (art. 82).

The extension of territorial waters to 12 miles (Law No. 71-1060, 1971) applies also to overseas territories (art. 5).

Art. 486 of the Code of Public Health dealing with nurses, has been amended, affecting also overseas departments (Law No. 71-1112, 1971).

Decree No. 72-50 (1972) amended Decree No. 64-11 (1964), regarding local national defense.

The Tax Code (art. 9 to 11 and 23) has been amended by Law No. 71-1025 (1971).

The protocol to the tax convention with the United States (1967), signed October 12, 1970, and amending art. 9, entered into force.

GUATEMALA

A governmental acuerdo (D.O. January 24, 1972) amended art. 21 of the acuerdo of August 14, 1969, regulating insurance enterprises (Decree-Law No. 473). Amended also was art. 31 of the Municipal Code, enacted as Congressional Decree No. 1183 (D.O. February 11, 1972).
Decree No. 95-71 (1971) provides for support to private educational institutions.

Decree No. 106-71 (D.O. December 20, 1971) regulates the organization of the Ministry of Public Finances, to replace the previous Ministry of Finance and Public Credit; public finances are in charge of the Ministry, of a Junta Mixta, of the Banco de Guatemala and of other similar institutions to be established in the future (art. 2). The Decree was implemented by a regulation of February 16, 1972 (D.O. February 18, 1972).

Amnesty for political crimes and connected common crimes was promulgated (Decree No. 99-71, 1971, D.O. November 22, 1971).

The mercantile register is now regulated by acuerdo M.E. 30-71 (D.O. December 20, 1971).

A register for the inscription of exporters of minerals was introduced (acuerdo, D.O. February 1, 1972). A Comisión Portuaria Nacional was created by acuerdo of March 10, 1972 (D.O. March 14, 1972) to assist the government in studies involving ports.

A Comisión Nacional para el Establecimiento y el Funcionamiento Inicial del Instituto de Seguridad y Medicina Ocupacionales for Central America and Panama was established by acuerdo of August 12, 1971. Ratified were, among others the multilateral social security convention signed at San José on October 13, 1967 (Decree No. 103-71, 1971); the International Wheat Convention signed at Geneva in 1971 (Decree No. 96-71, 1971, D.O. January 3, 1972); and the technical aid agreement with Israel, signed in 1971 (D.O. January 3, 1972).

Adopted also were the regulations to the Central American Convention on tax incentives for industrial development, with additional protocol regarding Honduras (D.O. September 10, 1971) and the Protocol to the Convention regarding the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, signed at Guatemala on April 19, 1969 (Decree No. 73-71, 1971).


HAITI

Art. 332 to 335 of the law of August 28, 1967, dealing with low rent housing, have been amended by a law enacted on December 16, 1971.
The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 1971) was ratified; on January 11, 1972, a convention on cooperation in development was signed with the Federal Republic of Germany.

HONDURAS

A law on forests (Decree No. 85, 1971) was enacted regulating the public administration of forests and their classification. The law contains an inventory of inalienable publicly held forests and provides for development and protection of such areas and regulates industries related to forests, associations, and provides penalties.

The current legislative session will discuss two significant bills: a criminal code and a law on urbanism. The former should replace the code enacted in 1906; it was prepared by a commission presided by the present President of the Republic.

JAMAICA

The tourist industry was favored by a number of recent enactments, among them the Hotel (Incentives) (Amendment) Act (No. 30, 1971); the Resort Cottages (Incentives) Act (No. 31, 1971); the Tourist Shopping Act (No. 32, 1971), also the Tourist Board (Amendment) Act (No. 33, 1971). The Jamaica Racing Commission Act (No. 1, 1972) was enacted. Amendments have affected the Electricity Development Act (No. 39, 1971); and the Defense Act. (No. 41, 1971).

In tax matters the following enactments may be listed: the Judicature (Revenue Court) Act (No. 29, 1971); the Income Tax Act (No. 37, 1971, and No. 1 and 2, 1972); the Property (Rates and Taxes) Relief Act (No. 4, 1972), and the Agricultural Incentives Act (No. 5, 1972).

Among bills submitted to the Legislature, the following may be mentioned: an act to provide for duration of certain employment contracts, notice and related matters; and an act regarding the use of bodies of deceased persons for therapeutic and scientific purposes.

MEXICO

The Criminal Code for the Federal District and Territories (1931) was amended (D.O. January 11, 1972) by adding to art. 389 a new paragraph (B), providing punishment for persons who alone or through others cause public or private damage by subdividing and transferring...
or by promising to transfer, the title, possession or any other interest in
urban or farm land, owned by such persons or by someone else, with or
without buildings thereon, without the prior administrative approval, or
without complying with requirements therein contained, regardless whether
there was no payment or only part payment.

Art. 57 of the Nationality and Naturalization Law (1934), dealing
with dual nationality was amended (D.O. December 29, 1971).

An extensive federal Water Law was enacted (D.O. January 11,
1972).

A Coordinating Commission for the development of Tehuantepec was
created; also a Committee to promote the socio-economic development of

Articles 26 and 27 of the Law on Secretarías and Departments have
been amended (D.O. January 12, 1972); also some provisions of the

In regard to the Federal District, amendments to the basic law; to
the office of the Attorney General (ld.), and the finance law may be
mentioned (D.O. December 31, 1971).

A new Ley Orgánica de la Armada de México was enacted (D.O.
January 12, 1972).

An Instituto Nacional de Energía Nuclear was created by new legis-
lation (D.O. January 12, 1972), replacing the law enacted in 1955 (D.O.
December 31, 1955); the new law also amended art. 5 and 7 of the law of

Pursuant to a recent constitutional amendment (4 Law. Am. 83,
1972), a federal law on firearms and explosives was enacted (D.O. Jan-
uary 11, 1972). In essence, the law requires firearms to be registered
(art. 9, 10) with the Secretary of National Defense (art. 7), except those
not in private possession or destined for the exclusive use by the army
(art. 11). Firearms permitted to be in private possession (art. 9, 10)
may be kept in one's domicile for safety and legitimate defense (art. 15).
To carry arms requires a license (art. 24) to be issued to the person meet-
ing set requirements (art. 25, 26). Aliens may carry arms provided they
meet the same requirements and enjoy the status of immigrants; tourists
may carry arms under temporary licenses for sport (art. 28). The Presi-
dent of the Republic grants licenses for the manufacture and commerce in
firearms. Additional provisions deal with explosives (art. 41), import and
export (art. 55 to 59), transportation (art. 60 to 61), control (art. 68 to 76), and penalties (art. 77 to 90).


NETHERLANDS WEST INDIES

The movement for independence is favored by the Dutch but not so much by local political parties which worry about political struggle to erupt between the majority Hindustani and the minority Progressive National Party led by blacks.

NICARAGUA

Decree No. 1914 (August 31, 1971) authorized the President to govern by decree. In the meantime, a National Constitutional Assembly shall convene in April, 1972, and in May a Junta Nacional de Gobierno shall be installed to govern the country through December 1, 1974, when the Republic will return to a presidential form of government. On May 1, 1972, a new constitution also shall be approved; at the same time seats on the Supreme Court and other courts shall be divided between the majority and minority political parties in proportion 4 to 3.
The law regarding agents, representatives or distributors of foreign firms (February 2, 1972, 76 La Gaceta No. 41, 466, 1972) regulates relations between concessioners (agents, representatives, and distributors) and their foreign principals, based on a “contract or simple document,” regardless of whether such relationship is exclusive or not, provided it involves products or services within the Republic (art. 1). The foreign principal cannot terminate such relationship with his agent (incl. representatives and distributors) or change it, except for just cause (art. 2). The relationship may be terminated or its renewal denied for a violation according to the Criminal Code on the part of the agent against the goods or interests of the principal; because of a continuing decrease in sales or distribution due to negligence on the part of the agent, except when such decrease is due to import restrictions, accidents or force majeure; due to acts chargeable to the principal affecting the importation, sale or distribution of the products, and because of principal’s bankruptcy (art. 9). The principal is liable for damages arising from unfounded termination or modification of the relationship, damages to include the value of agent’s investments; and indemnity determined on the basis of three year earnings, the percentage (25 to 100%) depending on the duration of the relationship; and finally by any other factor supporting an equitable determination of the indemnity (art. 3). There is a duty imposed on the principal to pay to each agent presently acting on his behalf, 80% of agent’s earnings in three years (art. 3) whenever the principal increases the number of his agents but without indicating the number of additional agents in relation to the indemnity. In cases of rescission or change of the contract or denial of renewal without just cause (art. 9), the principal must purchase within six months products held by the agent, the price to be determined according to directives contained in the law (art. 5). The principal will also be substituted as creditor in any credit granted by the agent in the sale of goods bought from the principal, except credits due for more than 12 months (art. 6). In case the principal did not pay the indemnity or failed to give security, the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce may, upon application by the agent, suspend the importation, delivery or distribution of the principal’s products (art. 7). The agent also has the right to retain merchandise held by him and property of the principal, as a privileged creditor (art. 8). A change of the domicile, firm, or any transformation, splitting-up of a society, or a change of its purpose, as well as merger are not grounds to terminate the relationship; the succeeding enterprise shall be liable jointly (art. 10). Actions arising under this law are cognizable in summary civil proceedings; the underlying contracts are subject to Nicaraguan laws “even if they provide differently” (art. 12). A statute of limitation (two years) is added (art. 11).
Decree-Law No. 209 (1972) provides that only Nicaraguan vessels may engage in maritime transportation between Nicaraguan ports and ports in other Central American countries.

Monopoly for the import and export as well as sale and production of alcohol from petroleum in favor of the State has been established by Decree-Law No. 301 (1972).

Decree-Law No. 308 (1972) deals with identity cards to be administered by an office subordinated to the Supreme Election Court.

The State has, according to Decree-Law No. 315 (1972), the exclusive right to confer professional titles through the Ministry of Public Education.

PANAMA

Both conventions dealing with seizure of aircraft (Hague, 1970 and Montreal, 1971) have been adopted.

PARAGUAY

The Convention for the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft (Hague, 1970) was ratified.

PERU

Decree-Law No. 19.000 (1971) amended art. 239 of the Criminal Code (1924) by increasing penalties for robberies. The introduction emphasizes frequent attacks on operators of public means of transportation and on banks. Penalties are set at six years of imprisonment and increasing in cases when in the commission of such crime injuries have been inflicted, or killing threatened, or weapons used, or when felons acted in groups. If the victim dies, life sentence shall be imposed; also if felons simulate an accident. No parole will be granted.

Decree-Law No. 19.059 (1971) regulates the appointment of judges by the Supreme Court and superior courts. The work of the Commission for the reform of the Organic Law of the Judiciary (No. 14.605) has been extended (Supreme Decree No. 026-71-PM, 1971).

In the area of agrarian reform Supreme Decree (No. 129-71-EF, 1971) deals with agrarian reform bonds. Classification of land is regulated by Supreme Decree No. 390-71-AG (1971).

The General Law regarding Telecommunications (Decree-Law No. 19.020, 1971) made telecommunications, including radio and television,
a matter of public necessity, utility, security and of national interest (art. 1). Consequently, it shall fall upon the State to direct, promote, operate, regulate and control such activities (art. 2). The State will recognize and protect private secrets when they pass through these institutions (art. 5) and operate these institutions through the Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones del Perú (ENTELPERU, art. 12), in accordance with the national development plan (art. 13). The law regulates the services (art. 15 to 28); various types of licenses (art. 32 to 50) restricting the issuance of licenses for commercial stations (art. 16, b) to public institutions and to enterprises in which the State holds at least 25% of the capital and a deciding position. Further, members, directors and managers must be natural persons, native born Peruvians, residing in Peru (art. 41). Interests and shares cannot be transferred or otherwise affected in favor of aliens; in cases of inheritance, the transfer will result in a reduction of the capital, unless transferred to Peruvians (art. 42). Generally, aliens may not be given licenses (art. 40), except under art. 36 (e.g. for amateurs, aircraft, vessels, etc.) and under exceptional circumstances (art. 45). Further provisions (art. 66 to 83) deal with servitudes and expropriations needed for installations. Qualified work in stations may be performed only by personnel registered with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (art. 87); technical personnel, speakers, commentators, animators, models, and similar individuals, must be Peruvian nationals (art. 89); a special permit is required for aliens (art. 90). At least 90% of the programs must originate from Peruvian nationals, unless there is reciprocity (art. 91). Every enterprise will have a Comunidad de Telecomunicaciones (art. 92) through which the personnel will participate in the management and profits (art. 92). Such Comunidades are members of the Comunidad de Compensación de Telecomunicaciones organized according to art. 112 to 118. Personnel participation is financed by 25% of net profits not subject to taxation (art. 98), of which 10% presents a liquid share in cash (art. 99) and 15% in bonds of the enterprise or shares of the Corporación Financiera de Desarrollo (art. 98). The Comunidad de Compensación de Telecomunicaciones participating in the administration of the 10% personnel's share (art. 99), shall establish a fund for such participation (art. 100) and administer it according to art. 125 to 127. Final provisions deal with the liquidation of the Comunidades and with penal provisions (art. 133 to 137). Extensive additional provisions contain particular provisions regarding corporations operating telecommunication services (art. 140 to 142), and transitory provisions. A list of definitions is found in Annex 1.

Credits to public transportation shall be guaranteed by the Banco Nacional (Decree-Law No. 18.988, 1971).
Capital of commercial banks established in the future will have to be domestic, according to Decree Law No. 19.043 (1971). Except subsidiaries of foreign commercial banks presently active in Peru, all existing commercial banks will have to operate with 80% of domestic capital (art. 2); they must comply with this provision within 60 days (art. 3). Under no circumstances may foreign capital participation be increased (art. 4).

The charter of the Corporación Financiera de Desarrollo (COFIDE) was promulgated by Decree No. 110-71-EF (1971).

The General Law of Industries (2 Law. Am. 425, 1970) was amended by Decree-Law No. 19.262, 1972) affecting art. 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26, 32, 34, 36 to 41. Extensive tax incentives have been granted to “decentralized” industries by Decree-Law No. 18.977 (1971); correspondingly, local offices of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce have been set up (art. 5 and 6). Special incentives are available for enterprises located in accordance with the plan (art. 18 and 19).

The Empresa Estatal Industrias Perú (INDUPERU), charged to study industrial development to establish industrial projects according to plan, to manage and assist them and to represent the State in enterprises in which the State participates (art. 6), was established by Decree-Law No. 19.272 (1972). Also established was the Empresa Siderúrgica del Perú (SIDERPERU) (Decree-Law No. 19.034, 1971).

The new Organic Labor Law (Decree-Law No. 19.040, 1971) deals mainly with the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor in matters of labor, employment and social security, including its decentralized offices and with labor courts (Fuerro Privativo del Trabajo). The Ministry shall function through its high level offices (alta dirección); through consultative organs; through adjunct (órganos de asesoramiento) and auxiliary offices; and through central and local offices (art. 21 and 22). There are also public decentralized offices: national social security, employees’ social security and service for apprenticeship and work (SENATI, 4 Law. Am. 87, 1972). Labor courts will have exclusive jurisdiction in individual labor disputes (art. 27). Their judges will be appointed according to Decree-Laws No. 18.831, 18.859, and 18,985 (art. 31). The regime of SENATI was modified by Decree-Law No. 18.983 (1971) and No. 18.983 (1971). The Social Security Law No. 8.433 underwent extensive modifications (Decree-Law No. 18.982, 1971).

The Banco de la Nación is, according to Decree-Law No. 18.961 (1971), exclusively authorized to enter into reinsurance contracts with foreign insurers (art. 1). Existing contracts expired by the end of 1971.
while new contracts shall be concluded in accordance with art. 1 (art. 3). The Banco de la Nación may accept reinsurance offered from abroad, provided such contracts are in the national interest (art. 5). From now on, domestic insurance and reinsurance companies are prohibited to enter into reinsurance contracts with foreign insurers; violations shall be penalized (art. 7).

The regime of agricultural imports has been modified by Decree-Law No. 19.271 (1972), except from countries within the Cartagena Agreement (art. 1).

In the area of mining, the amendment of art. 323 of the Mining Law (No. 18.880, 3 Law. Am. 552, 1972) may be noted. Credits available to small mining enterprises have been increased (Decree-Law No. 18.995, 1971). Marketing of mining products has been regulated by Supreme Decree No. 020-71-EM (1971). An agreement with the British Smelter Constructions, Ltd., was approved by Supreme Decree No. 015-EM/DGM (1971).

In the Dirección General de Hidrocarburos a public register of oil contractors has been established (Decree-Law No. 19.028, 1971). Oil enterprises have been granted tariff exemptions (Decree-Law No. 18.939, 1971) for importation of machinery.

The Comisión Nacional de Valores issued a regulation regarding auditing and certification of financial statements (CNV-132-71-EF-94, 1972), and adopted regulations regarding exchange operations.

A committee to supervise foreign dealings (Junta de Transacciones Externas del Sector Privado) has been set up by Decree-Law No. 19.028 (1971). Art. 36, 40, 68, and 69 of the regulation regarding transactions in foreign currency (Supreme Decree No. 004-71-EF, 1971) have been amended by Supreme Decree No. 162-71-EF (1971). The Decree-Law No. 17.851 which ratified the Cartagena Agreement and was implemented by Decree-Law No. 18.900 (3 Law Am. 556, 1971) will be enforced in Perú according to Decree-Law No. 18.999 (1971).

The Superintendencia de la Banca shall supervise institutions under its jurisdiction regarding interest rates they charge upon default of payment (Decree-Law No. 18.944, 1971). Tax benefits are available in cases of bank mergers (Decree-Law No. 19.013, 1971). A new procedure has been promulgated for the sale or lease of coastal areas (Supreme Decree No. 082-71-VI, 1971).

An Instituto Nacional de Cultura in Lima with subsidiaries throughout the country has been created by Decree-Law No. 19.268 (1972).
Shows (espectáculos) performed by foreigners will be supervised by the Junta Nacional de Espectáculos Extranjeros (Decree-Law No. 19.058). The Junta will function in the Ministry of Education and prepare a regulation for artistic, cultural, sport and recreational events presented by aliens. Individual as well as collective contracts for such performances entered into with persons not residing in Peru, but to be performed there, must be filed with the Ministry of Labor; such filing is also required for Peruvians to perform abroad.

The Commission for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the area affected by the earthquake of 1970 (CRYRZA, 2 Law. Am. 427, 1970) has been organized by Decree-Law No. 18.966 (1971).

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On April 10, 1972, the Social Security Act of 1970 (Act No. 46) came into force, providing for retirement and survivors benefits; for invalidity pensions, sickness, maternity and employment injury benefits, and for a funeral grant.

The new divorce bill (3 Law. Am. 556, 1971) has passed the Legislature. Its main objectives are: to avoid break-up of a marriage with some chance of survival; a decent termination with minimum of expense and publicity; insulation of children from the disruption of the family; an end to discrimination under present laws; and unification of divorce legislation for members of all religions, giving, however, Muslims the choice to have their marriage dissolved by the Muslim Divorce Court.

The Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aircraft (Montreal, 1971) was ratified with a reservation.

UNITED STATES

Among measures dealing with the economy, the Economic Stabilization Act Amendments of 1971 (85 Stat. 743) should be mentioned.

The reorganization of the federal administration continues (Administration Reorganization Plan, extension, 85 Stat. 574).

An extensive amendment of federal tax legislation was enacted by the Revenue Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 497). The newly enacted Campaign Communications Reform Act of 1971 (86 Stat. 3) regulated election expenses. The annual Foreign Assistance Act of 1971 (86 Stat. 20) also took effect.

In the area of health a number of significant enactments should be mentioned, among them the National Cancer Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 778);

Problems of credits involving agriculture are dealt with by the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 583).

Claims by native Alaskans based on original land titles will be settled under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 688).

Labor is affected by a number of federal enactments, among them by an amendment to the Social Security Act (1971, 85 Stat. 802); the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 810), and the Dock Dispute on the West Coast Act (1972, 86 Stat. 40).

The Fisherman Protection Act of 1967 (art. 8) was amended (85 Stat. 786).

The Sugar Act Amendments of 1971 (85 Stat. 379) regulating the production and marketing of domestic sugar and establishing quotas for sugar imported from abroad came into force. The law reflects the traditional policies with some minor modifications, among them a slight increase in the domestic quota affecting imports from Puerto Rico and only indirectly Latin American producers who usually filled deficits; small changes in quotas allocated to foreign countries; and a relaxation of provisions providing for sanctions in cases of foreign uncompensated expropriations.

An extradition treaty with Canada was signed to replace the convention of 1889, as modified in 1900, 1905, 1922, and 1951. Extraditable offenses are listed in the annexed schedule containing thirty types of crimes, among them acts endangering the safety of persons on board railways, aircraft or vessels (No. 21); piracy by statute or by the law of nations; mutiny or revolt on board a vessel (No. 22); also "any unlawful seizure or exercise of control of an aircraft, by force or violence or threat of force or violence, or by any other form of intimidation, on board aircraft" (No. 23). Also included are offenses against the laws regulating traffic in, and production or importation of narcotic drugs (No. 26). In case the offense under (23) is committed on board an aircraft, it will be considered to have been committed within the territory of the Party where the aircraft is registered, if the aircraft landed in the territory of that Party with the offender still on board; or in case the aircraft was leased without a crew to a lessee who has his principal place of business, or in case of lack thereof, has his permanent residence in the territory of such Party (art. 3, para. 1). Extradition will not be granted for offenses of a political character (art. 4), except in cases of kid-
napping or murder or other assault against the life or physical integrity of persons to whom, under international law, a special protection is due (art. 4, para. 2, i), and in cases listed under (23) of the Schedule when committed on board aircraft engaged in commercial services carrying passengers.

Another extradition treaty was signed on January 21, 1972 with Argentina, to supersede the one signed in 1896. An agreement with Brazil on scientific cooperation entered into force (1971); also an agreement with Ecuador on cooperation to control traffic in narcotic drugs (1971).

Puerto Rico

A number of bills have been introduced in the legislative assembly presently in session, among them one to increase the Christmas bonus from 2 to 4% and lower the maximum to be used as determinative of such bonus, from $10,000 to $6,000; furthermore, employers affected by this law should include also those with only one employee (presently two or more); the requirements of six months employment shall be stricken while the 700 hours work requirement should remain, including work for the same employer even if performed in his various businesses. In regard to working mothers, a bill would increase the benefits for maternity leaves from half to the full salary. The non-occupational disability act shall be modified by exempting labor unions offering private insurance plans from certain rules applicable to private insurers; another bill provides for an appropriation for an actuarial study preparatory to a retirement plan for employees in private industry. Bills related to labor prohibit persons not involved in a labor dispute from appearing on the picket line; also employment of aliens without local authorization. There is also a bill proposing the establishment of a government controlled fund for the purchase of shares in mutual funds, to be paid from dividends received.

URUGUAY

The state of siege imposed on June 24, 1969 was lifted on March 10, 1972, by a decision of both houses of the Legislature. However, the prohibition to report on terrorist activities remains in force, except through official bulletins. The Legislature also revoked a decree (No. 832, 1971) prohibiting printing, distribution and diffusion of publications dealing with armed violence inspired by foreign totalitarian interests. In April 1972, a limited state of siege was reimposed.

Decree No. 711 (1971) issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce contains regulations regarding the exploitation of maritime
resources, giving preferential treatment to residents and requiring fishing licenses for foreign fishing vessels. Severe penalties are provided for violations.

The police was reorganized by eight decrees (Nov. 11, 1971), issued by the Ministry of the Interior and supplemented by four additional regulations issued on November 18 and December 22, 1971.

A resolution issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (December 3, 1971) implements art. 98 of the Children's Code by prohibiting minors under 18 years of age from frequenting places where alcoholic beverages are distributed or mechanical games played.

To combat extensive tax evasion, the Ministry of Finance issued certain decrees (1971): Decree No. 798 requires delinquent taxpayers to appear in tax offices within 15 days; and No. 799 authorizes the Ministry to publish lists of tax delinquents. Additional decrees increase tariffs on imports (No. 800); limit amounts of foreign currency available through banks (No. 801); require stock exchange brokers and operators of exchange and travel agencies to declare their activities involving foreign currencies (No. 802). Decree No. 803 increases by 300% import tariffs on all items previously charged with 50% ad valorem, with penalties provided in Decree No. 804. Decree No. 805 requires a special permit which authorizes banks to sell foreign currency. Decree No. 830 (1971) imposes a 20% tax on all travel abroad.

The policy to give preference to domestic products was reiterated by Decree No. 692 (1971).

Aviation conventions with the Federal Republic of Germany (Law No. 14.024, 1971), and with Denmark, Norway, and Sweden (Law No. 14.025 (1971) have been adopted, as was the Inter-American Atomic Energy Organization (1965, Law No. 14.026, 1971).

The government submitted to the Legislature a draft bill on public order aiming at increasing penalties and extending criminal liability to persons from 16 to 18 years of age, including responsibility for conspiracies. The draft also provides for deportation of aliens with and without permanent residence in the country and makes conspiracy against the Constitution and the republican form of government a crime cognizable by court martial. It authorizes the government to suspend civil liberties if it finds it necessary. Severe penalties are provided for the press and television for slander, making responsible the writers, managers, owners as well as persons in charge of the respective services. The draft also
penalized smuggling of cattle abroad and establishes a control zone of 50 km along the frontier.

VENEZUELA

The law regarding reversion of oil concessions (3 Law. Am. 559, 1971) was implemented by a regulation (No. 884, G.O. 29.720, 1972) regarding use of assets belonging to third persons (art. 3). Regulation No. 2 (G. O. No. 29.748, 1972) regulates contributions by concessioners to the guaranty fund according to art. 6. Decree No. 832 (G.O. 29.689, 1971) charges concessioners with continuing exploitations according to directives issued by the Ministry of Mining and Oil.

An extensive regulation was issued to implement the legislative decree regarding leases and ejections (Decree No. 882, G.O. No. 29.719 and 29.719 (1972).

The resolution passed by the Consejo de Judicatura on July 15, 1971, regarding appointment of judges, was amended (G.O. No. 29.729, 1972).

The profession of economist has been regulated by law (G.O. No. 29.687 (1971).

The Ministry of Education has set up a commission to study education by television (Decree No. 905, G.O. No. 29.753, 1972). Postgraduate studies have been instituted at the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (Decree No. 830, G.O. No. 29.689, 1971).

Subsidies for exports of coffee and cocoa are available under Decree No. 862 (G.O. No. 29.697, 1971).

The Corporación de Desarrollo de la Región Centro-Occidental was created by law (G.O. No. 29.711, 1972), followed by a regulation (G.O. No. 29.714, 1972).

The aviation agreement with the United State of 1953, as amended in 1954, was again amended by exchange of notes (February 11, 1972). The convention establishing the Latin Union, signed at Madrid on May 15, 1954, was approved (G.O. No. 29.731, 1972). The modus vivendi with Canada, established by exchange of notes, appears in G.O. No. 29.729 (1972). The convention regarding narcotics, signed at Vienna in 1971, was adopted by law (G.O. No. 29.713, 1972).
A commission to study earthquakes was established (G.O. No. 29.681, 1971).


This report summarizes a select number of statutory enactments and other developments. Therefore, no decision should be made without consulting the complete texts and related materials. Moreover, consultation with a competent local attorney is recommended.