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INTER-AMERICAN
LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

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ARGENTINA

In view of a serious increase in terrorist activities by extremist groups the Government has amended Arts. 141, 142 and 170 of the Criminal Code dealing with deprivation of personal freedom; armed attacks against vessels, aircraft, barracks and other military and security installations as well as the unauthorized use of insignias or uniforms pertaining to the armed forces and security services. Penalties range from imprisonment to death.

Law No. 18.653 (1970) modified conditions for entry, exit and permanent residence of aliens. From now on, aliens with a permanent residence permit may return to Argentina within two years without a consular visa. Under a resolution, aliens must present their travel certificates, issued by the federal police, before leaving the country.

A number of recent enactments deal with labor law: labor inspection (Law No. 18.692, 1970); procedural standards regarding violations of labor legislation (Law No. 18.693, 1970), and penalties (Law No. 18.694, 1970); special regulations for the federal capital and territories (Law No. 18.695 with Decree No. 2.475, 1970). Law No. 18.697 (1970) implements the recently enacted Law No. 18.608, 1970; see 2 Lawyer of the Americas 201, 1970.

The powers of the National Commission of Prices and Wages have been expanded by Decree No. 2.497 (1970), amending the previous Decree No. 4919 (1969).

In order to guarantee "internal democracy" to professional organizations regulated by Law No. 14.455 (1958), Decree No. 969 (1966) was amended by Decree No. 2477 (1970). It defines labor unions, regulates the recruiting of members as well as some aspects of elections. Charters must guarantee to its members individually and to their groups (tendencias) the right to vote. The decree also provides rules for the election of various boards, and for control over financial activities and related bookkeeping. In order to be representative, a labor union must
count among its members at least ten percent of the branch it claims to represent.

Social activities exercised by governmental institutions, including those para-statal or mixed in nature, as well as by labor unions, are regulated by Law No. 18.610 (1970). Their activities must aim primarily at medical services, without impairing existing other services offered presently in conformity with the law. The law sets minimum contributions, regulates the handling of funds and establishes a National Institute of Social Services to direct and supervise such activities.

Marketing of pharmaceutical products is now regulated by Law No. 18.691 (1970). Among others, the law gives administrative authorities the power to establish profit margins binding on domestic producers and importers, to set prices for pharmaceutical specialties, domestically produced or imported, and to establish limits for royalties for foreign pharmaceutical patents.

A new law, accompanied by a decree (No. 2.081, 1970), grants enterprises engaged in tourism (hotels, restaurants, etc.), not included in Law 17.752 (1968) which provides for special tax treatment, certain advantages in regard to accelerated amortization of buildings, installations and vehicles. However, such favorable treatment shall be available only to enterprises operating in "priority centers" to be determined by administrative authorities, i.e., Dirección Nacional de Turismo, provided such enterprises have more than 500 rooms, operate on 10 to 100 hectares, enjoy permanent access and have connection by telephone or telegraph.

Private universities are now regulated by Decree No. 8.472 (1970), implementing Law No. 17.604 (1968).

The development of frontier zones, Law No. 18.575 (1970), accompanied by Decree No. 468, shall further colonization and exploitation of natural resources, and the integration of these areas with the rest of the nation by strengthening spiritual as well as economic ties "in conformity with the international policy of the Republic." These tasks are to be administered by administrative authorities in conjunction with the National Security Council.

Laws No. 18.715 and 18.716 (1970) and Decrees No. 6 and 7 devaluated the foreign exchange rate by 14.3% while the overall devaluation amounted to 12.5%. Dollar holding in banks and other financial institutions were taxed at half peso per dollar, the income therefrom to be used for low-income housing.
The Ministry of Justice issued directives for updating foreign obligations, foundations, etc. and substantially change methods of dealing with such obligations, e.g., their inclusion in balance sheets, their cancellation and their role in regard to the distribution of profits.

New legislation has been enacted dealing with import (Law No. 18.675, 1970) and export tariffs (Law No. 18.714, 1970).

Under consideration is the regulation of foundations, particularly their establishment, functioning, dissolution and liquidation. An inter-ministerial commission with representatives from the law faculty of the University of Buenos Aires is charged with studying the matter.

The status of civil employees of the Armed Forces is regulated by a new decree (No. 33, June 24, 1970).

Under the new government all significant laws and decrees require the signature of the President, the military Commanders in Chief and the respective Ministers.

Antartica

The legal, organizational and functional status of Antartica is regulated by Law No. 18.513 (1970), which is to be administered by the Dirección Nacional del Antártico, attached to the Ministry of Defense.

Buenos Aires

A Rural Code was enacted dealing with the soil, fauna and flora as well as the utilization of water and air. Preliminary provisions define an agricultural enterprise (farm) as the center of production and deal with related questions, including rights in new plants and animal varieties; access to public transportation; and, soil conservation. Future development includes colonization and land acquisition. Expropriation for purposes of colonization will be available only in regard to land which is insufficiently cultivated. Additional provisions deal with forestation, gaming, public waters and air.


Cordoba

The Tax Code in force was extensively amended by Laws No. 5.152
and 5.125 (1970). The provincial government was reorganized by Decree No. 257 (1970).

Mendoza

Law No. 3.645 regulates the prison system.

Rioja

Termination of employment and retirement is now regulated by Law No. 3.302 (1970).

Santa Fe

A code regulating misdemeanors was enacted as Decree No. 2.766 (1969).

Tucuman

A Council for the Protection of Minors was established by Decree No. 27-14 (1970).

BARBADOS

The Legitimacy Act of 1930 (1930-3) was implemented by Legitimacy Regulations, 1970 (S.I. 33, 1970) dealing with re-registration of births of persons legitimized by the Act.

The National Insurance and Social Security Act (1966-15) was amended by Act No. 3 (1970) regarding exemptions from coverage; a new article (39A) was added regarding impersonation of an officer.

After heated discussions and 50 amendments, the Legislature passed the Public Order Act to assure order during public meetings, marches and processions. It outlaws vitriolic speeches in public by punishing speakers with fine or imprisonment, or both. It requires permission from the Commissioner of Police for public meetings and prohibits meetings and marches within 220 yards from certain public buildings, among them the Parliament, ministries, law courts and hospitals. Police officers may call upon meetings to disperse; however, meetings of labor unions, clubs, companies and similar bodies are exempt. The use of loudspeakers without a permit is prohibited after 11 p.m., except during election campaigns.

The Government is considering a strict control of land use in view of the fact that the foreign hotel industry is infringing on domestic agricultural interests.
BOLIVIA

A law to reorganize the Government is under consideration; the administrative branch shall be operated through 16 ministries.

BRAZIL

Decree No. 66.689 (1970) regulates Decree No. 941 (1969) defining the legal situation of foreigners in Brazil. The regulation contains 206 articles, plus a schedule of fees and taxes. It also contains samples of documents which foreigners must carry while in Brazil. A new decree regulating the entrance and permanent residence of foreigners in Brazil is under active consideration. The projected decree, among other things, defines the crimes punishable with expulsion from Brazilian territory.

Opinion No. 37-70 (1970) of the Coordinator of Taxes clarifies the importation of personal effects by persons coming into Brazil on temporary visas which are later converted into permanent visas.


A minimum wage was decreed early in 1970 with the lowest level applicable to the Northeast Region, and the highest to Guanabara and Sao Paulo.

Instruction No. 21 of April 22, 1970 from the Secretary of Federal Reserve sets forth new norms for customs clearance of imported merchandise.

Decree-Law No. 1.090 (1970) extended to September 12, 1970 the suspension of monetary correction of the fiscal debts of bankrupt firms.

Decree-Law No. 1.1091 (1970) modified the current legislation concerning taxes on lubricants, fuels, liquid and gas.

A new Public Register Law became effective on April 23, 1970. The new law modernizes existing procedures relative to the administration of the public registers.


Effective May 31, 1970, the Government decreed strict compliance with Law 1.034 (1969) which set forth the security measures which had to be placed into effect by banking institutions and similar credit granting entities.
Under active consideration by the Executive is a pollution law which, under a National Pollution Commission, would adopt the necessary measures to combat the threat of pollution in Brazil.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Bahamas

The Immigration Act (No. 25, 1967) was amended by Act No. 4 (1970), nullifying certain provisions contained in governmental agreements allowing the entry of any persons or class of persons, or permitting any person to bring into the Bahamas any person or class of persons.

The Census Act was amended by the Census (Amendment) Act (No. 5, 1970) prohibiting disclosure of information given in conjunction with the taking of the census.

The Public Trustee Act (No. 6, 1970) established such an office in the form of a corporation. The corporation is to act in the administration of estates of small value, as custodian trustee, as ordinary trustee, and as court appointed trustee.

An Act was passed to amend the Sports Act (No. 8, 1970).

The Industries Encouragement Act (No. 10, 1970) provides preferential treatment for products "of benefit to the Bahama Islands" and without any detriment to them. Manufacturers of such products, properly licensed and registered, will enjoy favorable treatment in regard to certain imports, relief from export duties and from income and real property taxes.

The Bahamas Monetary Authority Act (No. 27, 1968) was implemented by Currency (Notes and Coins) Regulations (S.I. No. 27, 1970) describing denominations, forms, designs and devices of the new currency.

Cayman Islands

Under the pressure of the tourist industry a number of laws were enacted dealing with land-holding statistics, zoning, and interim land development. As a consequence, inhabitants were prohibited to take sand from the beaches, and to build houses on lots less than 8,000 square feet. They also needed a certificate of occupancy before moving into a house,
in order to assure proper water, electricity and sewerage. Responding to protest, the Land Development (Interim Control) Act of 1969 was suspended and new regulations are now being considered. A five-year development plan is promised.

St. Vincent

A National Provident Fund was established by Act. No. 1 (1970), providing for age, survivor and incapacitation benefits.

Regulation for the 1970 census have been issued (No. 2, 1970).

The Shops (Hours of Opening and Employment) (Amendment) order (1969) was amended by order No. 4 (1970).

Turks & Caicos Islands

The Laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands (1970) appeared in two volumes.

CANADA

Among acts recently assented to, the following may be mentioned: acts respecting the (1) labelling, sale, importation and advertising of consumer textile products; (2) establishment of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation and to regulate the inter-province and export trade of saltfish; (3) the dissolution of the Dominion Coal Board, the repeal of the Canadian Coal Equality Act, the Coal Production Assistance Act, and the Dominion Coal Board Act; (4) the use of national safety marks in relation to motor vehicles and to provide for safety standards for certain motor vehicles imported into or exported from Canada or sent from one province to another and, (5) the Railway Act (1969/70). Some enactments amend existing legislation, among them, the Parole Act; the Agricultural Products Cooperative Marketing Act; and the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act. The Deep Sea Fisheries Protection Act was repealed.

The Motor Vehicle Transport Act came into force in the Yukon Territory as well as in the Northwest Territories.

The Hazard Products Regulations issued on March 3, 1970, lists products considered hazardous to the consumer and establishes a set of symbols designating the hazards to be marked on the products. The label must contain information about such hazards, give advice concerning the
precautions and, when necessary, contain in bold face "First Aid Treatment," followed by information regarding treatment and first aid, as well as proper use and storage of the products.

Alberta

A number of enactments took effect, among them the Consumer Affairs Act (1969); the Fire Prevention Act (1965); the Builders’ Lien Act (1970); the Agricultural Chemicals Act (1969); and, the Public Health Act (1969).

British Columbia

A number of enactments came into force, among them the Age of Majority Act (1970); Jury Act (1969); Land Act (1970); as well as amendments to the Public Schools Act (1970); Supreme Court Act (1969); Consumer Protection Act (1970); Landlord and Tenant Act (1970), and Motor Vehicle Act (1970).

New Brunswick

An amendment to the Hospital Schools Act (1969) has taken effect.

Newfoundland

Among others, the following acts came into force: Annual Vacations with Pay Act (1969); Elevators Act (1969); Employment Act (1969); Natural Products Marketing Act (1966/7); and Weekly Day of Rest Act (1969).

Nova Scotia

A number of enactments came into force, among them the Camping Establishments Act (1969); Jury Act (1969); and Environmental Pollution Control Act (1970).

Ontario

Among the enactments assented to, the following may be listed: Fisheries Loan Act (1970); Regional Municipal Grants Act (1970);
Business Corporations Act (1970); Waste Management Act (1970), and the Act to provide Incentive for the Abatement of Pollution. Among acts amending existing legislation are those affecting the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act; Proceedings Against the Crown Act (1962/3), Labour Relations Act; Loggers' Safety Act (1962/3); Forest Fire Prevention Act (1968); Judicature Act; Income Tax Act (1961/2); Bills of Sale and Chattel Mortgage Act; Solicitors Act; Barristers Act; Notaries Act; Mining Act; Operating Engineers Act; Industrial Safety Act (1964); Corporations Act; Telephone Act; Land Titles Act; Boundaries Act; Certification of Titles Act; Provincial Courts Act; Mechanic Liens Act (1968/9); Employment Standards Act; Farm Products Container Act; Athletic Control Act; Mortgage Act; Legal Aid Act; Game and Fish Act (1961/2); Public Lands Act; Energy Act (1964); Planning Act; Motorized Snow Vehicles Act (1968), Highway Traffic Act; Gasoline Handling Act (1968/9); Real Estate and Business Brokers Act (1968/9); and, Securities Act (1968/9).

Prince Edward Island

The Farm Implements Act (1968) and the Lending Authority Act (1969) took effect.

Quebec

A number of amendments to existing legislation were assented to, among them; Mining Act; Liquor Board Act; Provincial Income Tax Act; Meals and Hotels Tax Act; Quebec Broadcasting Bureau Act; Official Time Act; Gas Distribution Act; and the Act respecting the Artificial Inducement of Rain.

The Civil Code underwent significant amendments. One deal's with the code relating to the marital property regime (2 Lawyer of the Americas 209, 1970); another adjusted the federal Divorce Law (1 Lawyer of the Americas 54, 1969); and still another determined the effects of a declaration of death in regard to the matrimonial regime.

An amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure gave the provincial courts exclusive jurisdiction in actions for specific performance; annulment, dissolution or rescission of contract as well as in actions to annul a lease whenever the value is less than $3,000 (previously $1,000). An arbitral award may be enforced upon a simple motion for homologation without an ordinary suit.
The Legislature has recently adopted a bill lowering the voting age for Montreal to 18 years.

Saskatchewan


CHILE

The Commercial Code (1865) and Decree-Law No. 251 (1931) regarding corporations have been amended by Law No. 17.308 (1970). Changes affect the adoption and changes of the by-laws; types of shares; corporate capital; shareholders' committees (juntas de accionistas); preferred shares; board of directors; financial reports; dividends; and, subsidiaries. Powers of the Superintendencia de Sociedades Anónimas have been expanded and penalties for the violation of rules increased.

The Labor Code (1945) was amended by Law No. 17.301 (1970) affecting Articles 312 and 313 of the Code dealing with women workers.


The agreement with Brazil on letters rogatory was approved by Decree No. 214 (1970) of the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

The Central Bank has the exclusive right to purchase gold in any form; however, jewelry may be traded freely (D.O. May 30, 1970). An acuerdo issued by the Central Bank changed present provisions dealing with foreign currency (D.O. May 28, 1969) regarding purchases for travel, family support abroad, books and medicines (D.O. June 6, 1970). The present interest rate is fixed at 20%; contractual interest may not exceed 24% (D.O. July 2, 1970). Agricultural insurance is to be administered by the Instituto de Seguros del Estado (D.O. July 6, 1970).

COLOMBIA

The enactment of the new Commercial Code is expected soon. However, it will not, in its present form, contain maritime and aviation law; provisions dealing with industrial property (patents) may be substantially revised as compared with the present law.

The legal profession is newly regulated by Decree No. 320 (1970). The profession is considered to be a public service aiming at the defense of rights of individuals and of society, and at a perfect administration
of justice, in cooperation with the authorities so as to preserve and improve the rule of law. Admission to the Bar is supervised and granted by courts, and inscribed in the national register kept by the Ministry of Justice. Representation by attorneys is compulsory except in enumerated cases, but a person may act as his own attorney. The decree also regulates incompatibilities; illegal exercise of the profession, and contains disciplinary provisions and penalties. Jurisdiction in these matters is vested in departmental courts and, on appeal, in a disciplinary tribunal.

The Ministry of Economic Development has established (Resolución No. 184, 1970) requirements for car-assembly plants, implementing Decree No. 1143 (1969). Among others, such enterprises must establish a factory in Colombia for the production of cars; use parts produced domestically whenever these are available in sufficient quantities; set reasonable prices; offer installments and other financial arrangements, and allow government inspections. The Superintendency of Industry and Commerce is charged with the administration of the resolution.


Two new free industrial and commercial zones have been established in Buenaventura and Palmaseca (Decree No. 1095, 1970), in addition to that in Barranquilla created by Law No. 105 (1958).

A criminal statute for custom offenses was enacted by Decree No. 955 (1970). It aims to combat smuggling, provides for an expeditious procedure, increases the number of judges on customs courts, defines offenses and lists punishment for such offenses, among them loss of the right to engage in commerce and deportation of aliens. Custom violations as defined in the statute are considered crimes; suspended sentence is not available in cases of smuggling arms, ammunition, explosives or dope. Aggravating and mitigating circumstances are provided for in Arts. 36 to 38 of the Criminal Code. There may be preventive detention, but also bail. Judicial functions are exercised by investigating tariff judges (Jueces de Instrucción Penal Aduanera), judges (Jueces de Distrito Penal Aduanero), superior judges (Jueces Superiores de Aduanas), and by the Supreme Court. Investigating judges have at their disposal the Policía Judicial.

Issuing checks without funds; by improper order of the drawer; on a cancelled account or an account under attachment, or an account not belonging to the drawer, will be punished by imprisonment of one to three years under new Decree No. 1.135 (1970). Punishable is also
the falsification or alteration of negotiable instruments intended to be used to another party's detriment.

Transfers of automobiles and the creation of interests therein to be valid require execution in a public document; the document shall also be filed in the Registry of Public Documents (Decree of the Ministry of Justice, No. 1.225, 1970).

Decree No. 1.669 (1964) dealing with antisocial behavior has been replaced by Decree No. 1.118 (1970) containing Book III of the Criminal Code. Its provisions deal with violations affecting public safety and peace, the social order, public trust, public health, national economy, public morals, sexual order, personal integrity, and property.

COSTA RICA

Law No. 4.545 (1970) gives bona fide possessors of land for more than ten years, but without a title registrable in the public registry, the right to file an application with the National Institute of Land and Colonization for the grant of a registrable title. The registration of such title does not prevent the holder of a better title or a better claim to the land, to attack it within three years from registration.

An agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank regarding privileges and immunities was approved by Law No. 4.550 (1970).

The Law for the Protection of Wildlife was amended by Law No. 4.551 (1970) providing new rules for such protection and for the control of gaming and fishing. It also contains criminal sanctions for violations.

Law No. 4.5765 (1970) charged state banks to offer economic help to producers in cases of damages caused by force majeure.

Under Law No. 4.558 (1970), municipalities are authorized to develop land along the ocean for recreational facilities, housing and tourism; they may also lease or sell such land for the same purposes.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

To cope with increasing terrorist activities three laws have been recently enacted. Law No. 588 (1970) amends Art. 435 of the Criminal Code (as amended by Law No. 28, 1963), and makes punishable with imprisonment up to 30 years the use of explosives in buildings, means of transportation, public places, as well as the "commission of any other act of terrorism." Punishable is also any sale, production, possession or
transportation of any type of explosives, including plastic explosives and Molotov cocktails. Aliens found guilty will be deported. No bail will be allowed and penalties will be determined disregarding mitigating circumstances. The second enactment modifies Art. 39 of Law No. 36 (1965) dealing with arms. The third law imposes a penalty up to 30 years imprisonment for kidnapping, and includes those who provide the transportation and place of confinement for the kidnapped person, the arms, or in any other way contribute to the crime.

In connection with the frequent attacks on public officials, a law was enacted granting the widow and children of an official who loses his life in the performance of his duty a pension in the amount of 60% of the decedent’s last salary.

The Legislature adopted a new law regarding voting registers.

An amendment to the Law of Ports and Coasts (No. 3003) changed some of the provisions dealing with seamens’ identification cards (carnet). After a heated debate the Legislature adopted a law giving the Government the power to lease off-shore islands to interested parties, particularly for tourism, thus repealing Law No. 1.350 (1937) which expressly denied such power.

Decree No. 3.600 (1969) dealing with the acquisition of land and reported in 2 Lawyer of the Americas 50, 1970, was repealed by Decree No. 3.768 (1969).

The following current topics are under legislative discussion: neighborhood committees; the law on habeas corpus; a preemptive right in favor of the State in sales of land by private owners; control of foreign currency transactions; and, the territorial sea.

ECUADOR

In May, 1970 the President decreed an emergency budget calling for sales and consumer taxes and abolishing a number of tax exemptions based on special laws favoring industrial and agricultural development. Under the threat that the Supreme Court would find the presidential measures unconstitutional and thus deprive him of the necessary means to govern the country, the President assumed full powers on June 22, 1970. In his first press conference after the coup the President announced a plebiscite to reform the Constitution of 1946. Once approved by the people, the new Constitution will be submitted to Congress to convene in 1972.
Following the precepts of the 1967 Constitution, the Permanent Legislative Commission has amended provisions contained in the Civil Code and in the Code of Civil Procedure so as to conform to the following: majority (including full legal capacity) was reduced from 21 to 18 years; equality between spouses, thus eliminating partial inability of married women; and equality between legitimate and illegitimate children. After the change in the government in June, 1970, the Commission of Jurists charged with the study and reform of law, found these changes to remain in force and that they should be incorporated in the text of the respective codes (R.O. No. 446, June 4, 1970).

The Permanent Legislative Commission also approved in June, 1970, the draft of a law regarding water. The draft proclaims water to perform a social function which cannot be enjoyed arbitrarily but only in accordance with the law. Streams are national property and open to public use as common assets to which anyone shall have access; the use of water shall be regulated by technical authorities. Persons entitled to the use of water as concessionarios shall use only as much water as they need for their industries and occupations, the rest of the water is to be used by those who need it. In essence the draft is designed, with some modifications, to codify the existing water law presently dispersed in various laws and regulations.

Rents due for apartments have been frozen for three years (R.O. No. 1, June 22, 1970).

The organization of the Supreme Court of Justice was modified by Decree No. 37 (1970).

Dealing in foreign exchanges was regulated (R.O. No. 1, June 22, 1970); a Comité de Cambios was established and its functions defined (Decree No. 24, 1970).

Salaries of employees in public services, both private and public, and those financed by tax revenues, have been limited (Decree No. 54, 1970). The Instituto Nacional de Previsión was abolished (R.O. No. 6, June 29, 1970).

A convention of cultural cooperation with Argentina was adopted (R.O. No. 3, June 24, 1970).

Editors Note: A good summary of major decrees promulgated in Ecuador subsequent to June 22 is found in the August 24 issue of the U.S. Department of Commerce publication-International Commerce.
EL SALVADOR

The new Commercial Code (2 Lawyer of the Americas 214, 1970) was adopted by the Legislature and approved by the Executive on February 26, 1970 to take effect on January 1, 1971. An executive veto of the original legislation was founded on numerous formal errors and on some thirty substantive matters. The presidential objections were considered and incorporated by the Legislature in the new Code which contains 1,564 articles.

A number of enactments have taken effect. Specifically, laws regulating: sanitary meat inspection (Legislative Decree No. 588, 1970); the Cataster (Legislative Decree No. 638, 1970); and, another dealing with military promotions (Legislative Decree No. 622, 1970).

The new law of Credit Institutions and Auxiliary Organizations was vetoed by the President and returned to the Legislature where it remains under consideration.

A reorganization of the foreign service was undertaken by Legislative Decree No. 670 (1970). It provides for compulsory retirement of personnel as well as requirements for entering the service.

A draft for a new Code of Criminal Procedure is to be submitted to the Legislature. The draft was prepared by a commission composed of judges of the Supreme Court, representatives of the Ministry of Justice and delegates of the Federation of Attorneys. Once adopted, the new Code will replace the Code now in force dating from 1882.

Under consideration are legislative drafts dealing, among others, with increase of exports; municipal government; identity cards; irrigation; and, radio and television.

FRENCH ANTILLES AND GUIANA

Minimum wages have been further regulated by Decree No. 70-160 of February 27, 1970.

Social aid as provided under Decree No. 57-44 (1957) has been modified by Decrees No. 70-195 and 70-196 of March 9, 1970.

GUATEMALA

The new Commercial Code (2 Lawyer of the Americas 210, 1970) will take effect on January 1, 1971, except for those matters listed in
Art. VII of the transitory provisions which will take effect on July 1, 1971.

The General Law of Gaming, enacted by Decree No. 8170 (1970), divides game into that destined for domestic consumption, research, sport and commerce. Animals are classified as those of the forest, minor animals (including reptiles), and aquatic animals. Detailed provisions regulate their export and commerce, protection and penalties. Nationals may hunt within the limits set by law but aliens, legally in Guatemala, may obtain permits limited to research, study or sport. Administrative control is vested in the Ministry of Agriculture. The law also provides for refuges, reservations and areas for sport.

In the area of administrative law, Decree No. 13-70 (1970) regulates governmental purchases of goods and services over 3,000 quetzales making such purchases subject to public bidding; the decree was implemented by a regulation (D.O. June 9, 1970).

Pensions of civil service employees have been regulated by Decree No. 28170 (D.O. June 2, 1970), implemented by a regulation (D.O. July 31, 1970).

The Municipal Code was amended by Decree No. 25170 (1970).

Amendments to the National Educational Law (Decree-Law No. 317) deal with recognition of studies abroad (D.O. June 5, 1970).

Minimum wages have been fixed for workers in the timber industry as well as for employees in medical and related services (Decrees No. 1418 and 1419, D.O. June 26, 1970).

A decree regulates marketing of coffee, particularly the Coffee Producers Association (D.O. May 14, 1970).

An Instituto Nacional de Energía Nuclear was established (Decree No. 36-70, D.O. June 22, 1970).

Decree No. 33-70 (1970) amended numerous provisions of the Law on Telecommunications. Among other changes, one provision limits the granting of licenses to operate radio and television stations to nationals or to companies established in Guatemala; in case of corporations these must have at least 51% domestic capital with nominative shares, and file an annual list of shareholders with the National Department of Radio and Television.
GUYANA

The National Security Act adopted a few months after independence in 1966 allowing preventive detention; search without warrant; control of arms, ammunition and explosives; as well as wide police powers and arrests, was extended for one year. During the debate in the Legislature, the Minister of Home Affairs indicated that any violence or armed revolution will be met with "swift and massive retaliation."

HONDURAS

Executive Resolution No. 470 (1970) established general rules for sanitation, including private and public enterprises.

Juvenile courts have been established by Legislative Decree No. 92 (1969) for juvenile offenders between 12 and 18 years of age. Courts shall concern themselves also with delinquent behavior of juveniles under 12 years, as well as with juveniles who are abandoned or victims of exploitation or mistreatment by parents or guardians. To implement judicial action, auxiliary organizations have been created, among them, observation and re-education centers as well as volunteer organizations interested in juvenile welfare.

Among previous enactments, the Mining Code (Legislative Decree No. 143, October 10, 1968) should be mentioned. Among other provisions the Code requires all domestic and foreign companies operating in Honduras to register; foreign companies must also have a permanent local Honduran representative. Mining concessions may not be granted to foreign governments or states, to companies and corporations related therewith, nor to aliens in the service of foreign powers; to persons who defaulted on mining fees; nor to officials dealing with the administration of mining matters. The grants for exploration comprise at least 400 hectares and no more than 50,000 hectares while the exploitation grant covers 100 to 400 hectares. No one may be granted exploitation rights exceeding 20,000 hectares. The concession for exploitation is granted for 40 years and may be extended for 20 more. Machinery, equipment, spare parts and other implements for mining are free from import duties.

JAMAICA

A number of amendments to existing legislation were enacted. Among them, amendments to the Stamp Duty Act (No. 3, 1970); Parochial Fire Brigade Act (No. 4, 1970); Representation of the People Act (No. 5, 1970); Parish Councils Act (No. 6, 1970); Sugar Industry Control Act
(No. 8, 1970); Agricultural Loans Law (No. 9, 1970) making loans available to coffee and cocoa in addition to sugar cane; Probation of Offenders Law (No. 10, 1970).

An act amending the law regarding civil proceedings between husband and wife (No. 11, 1970) grants a right of action to one spouse "in tort against the other as if they were not married," with the proviso that the court may stay such proceedings if it appears that "no substantial benefit would accrue to either party," or that the matter "could more conveniently be disposed" under Section 16 of the Married Women (Property) Law. The Act also provides that a married woman "shall have the same remedies and redress by way of criminal proceedings for the protection and security of her own property as if she were a femme sole;" but no such proceedings are available against the husband while the spouses are living together, nor while they are living apart with regard to any act committed by the husband while living together, "unless such property has been wrongfully taken by the husband when leaving or deserting, or about to leave or desert his wife."

Pending before the Legislature are, among others, an act to amend the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Law dealing with criminal offenses committed by government officials abroad within the scope of their employment; an act to amend the Income Tax law (No. 59, 1954) generally; and another act dealing with the corporate income tax in particular.

An order of 1965 dealing with paid vacations and sick leaves covering present workers entitled to minimum wages (e.g., employed in hotels, printing, gasolene retail business, catering, baking, drygoods, laundry and dry cleaning) has been extended by a new order, to take effect on July 1, 1970, covering all types of workers, including household helpers and workers in non-profit institutions, regardless of the method of payment. However it will exclude, among others, persons employed by the government and by parish councils.

Under consideration to be submitted to the Legislature are, among others, the inclusion of a fish marketing board in the Fisheries Law; a bill to protect fishery resources, particularly lobsters; and the setting up of a national industrial training board. The bill merging both branches of the legal profession is expected to be before the legislature "early next year."

During the discussion of the budget in June, 1970 the Government stated its position on land development and distribution, both considered to be "retained exclusively for local ownership and development." Owner-
ship of land by non-resident aliens should be subject to licensing with joint ownership as the "most enduring way to develop a stable enterprise and partnership." Such measures shall be determined by three factors: availability of domestic capital; if desired, use of public funds (Equity Fund of the Jamaica Development Bank), and the need to prevent concentration of land holding in the "hands of a few local owners." Furthermore, the acquisition of shares in Jamaican corporations by aliens" is to be brought under control.

The House has recently approved amendments to the Banana Board Law expanding the composition of the Board; also to the Tax Law by providing relief for donations to assist handicapped persons. The establishment of a Price Commission is being discussed by the Legislature to strengthen present price control.

The recent Commonwealth Conference expressed the wish that Commonwealth countries should seek termination of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. To this effect, the Conference has set up necessary "machinery for the consideration in depth of the proposal for the establishment of a Regional Court of Appeal."

The biennial conference of the Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association (2 Lawyer of the Americas 217, 1970) adopted a number of positions, among them one supporting the "fusion of the profession" (barristers and solicitors). It also recommended the status of Queen's Counsel; recognition of professional qualification based on reciprocity; and to offer scholarships to law students to attend Caribbean law schools. Caribbean governments are requested to set up law reform and law revision committees and exchange their reports through the Secretariat of the Commonwealth which should provide technical assistance in drafting.

MEXICO

The Criminal Code for the Federal District and Territories (D.O. August 14, 1931) was amended by a decree published in D.O. July 29, 1970. The decree amended and consolidated provisions dealing with crimes against the security of the nation, and amended some provisions dealing with illegal deprivation of freedom and other civil rights. Crimes against the security of the nation include treason; espionage; sedition; mutiny; rebellion; terrorism; sabotage; and conspiracy. Treason, punishable with imprisonment from five to forty years and fine, is defined by fifteen factual situations listed in Art. 123 and an additional five in Arts. 124 and 125. Aliens are amenable to these provisions except in regard to intelligence with the enemy and military espionage; in regard
to aliens engaged in espionage, additional provisions appear in Art. 127. Sedition is defined as resistance or attack, in a tumultuous way, but without the use of arms, against authority in order to impede the free exercise of its powers in connection with suppression of rebellions. By contrast, mutiny is defined as tumultuous assemblage for the purpose or under the pretext of avoiding compliance with a law when this is accompanied by a disturbance of the peace and the use of violence against persons or things, or by threats against authority in order to intimidate it or force it to make "another decision." Rebellion consists of the use of force and arms aiming to abolish or change the federal Constitution; of change, destruction or obstruction with the functions of constitutional federal institutions and the free exercise thereof; and of interfering with the performance of duties of any high federal official. Punishable is also any form of support of and inciting to rebellion; or — within an area occupied by the Government — the hiding of spies and those who exploit rebels; maintaining relations with rebels or the voluntary performance of services within such area. Government officials as well as rebels who subsequent to a battle (combate) kill or order to kill prisoners and persons who commit any crime during a rebellion will be punished, but not so in the case of rebels for homicide or injury during the struggle (en el acto de un combate). Criminal responsibility for such acts is imposed on persons who have ordered the acts; who permit the performance of the acts, and those who have directly executed them. Terrorism is defined as the use of explosives, poisons, arms, arson, flooding and any other act, directed "against persons, things or public services" which produce "alarm, fear, terror among the population or in a part or segment thereof" aiming to disturb the public order, impede public authorities or coerce them to make a decision. Finally, sabotage consists of damage to or destruction or interference with the means of communication, public services, functioning of various branches of the state, public organs, enterprises with state participation; enterprises related to the metals industry, electricity and other basic industries; centers of production or distribution of necessary consumer goods; arms, ammunitions and war material, in order to subvert the economic life of the nation and affect its defensive potential. The second part of the decree deals with the loss of personal freedom and other civil rights, particularly with various types of kidnapping. As a consequence, the previous Art. 145 which dealt with the crime of social dissolution and was widely criticised because of its lack of definiteness (1 Lawyer of the Americas 62, 1969) was eliminated.

Foreign portfolio investments in certain branches of the economy have been further curtailed. According to a presidential decree (D.O.
July 2, 1970), the Ministry of Foreign Relations will approve the establishment, acquisitions, and changes to the corporate structure of companies engaged in the metals, cement, glass, fertilizers, cellulose and aluminum industries provided that (a) 51% of the voting capital is subscribed by Mexicans or Mexican companies which exclude aliens in their by-laws or limit their participation, or in which a higher percentage is required for decisions affecting the management of the company; (b) in cases of corporations two kind of shares are provided for: one exclusively for Mexican shareholders which cannot be transferred to aliens or Mexican companies which do not meet requirements under (a) above; while the other is freely marketable; (c) that the by-laws provide that the managers (administradores) will be appointed by Mexican members or shareholders and that the persons appointed be Mexicans. In the case of acquisition of shares as well as other kinds of participation in companies by aliens or by Mexican companies admitting alien membership, permits will be issued by the Ministry only in accordance with these rules. Art. 3. of the decree deals with existing companies which, in principle, are not affected. However, in case these companies wish to acquire other enterprises or start the operations listed above, a permit from the Ministry is required and will be granted only in accordance with the terms of the decree.

Special provisions have been issued for credit and auxiliary institutions. Foreign participation was curtailed in 1965 (D.O. December 30, 1965); the new regulation (D.O. June 8, 1970) provides that "persons or groups" interested in acquiring more than 25% or more of the shares in such institutions need a previous permit by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit. Applications must show solvency as well as technical and administrative ability. The Ministry will pass on such applications in its own discretion. The acquisition of 25% or more of the capital in such institutions without previous authority constitutes a violation of the General Law on Credit Institutions and Auxiliary Organizations. A decree (D.O. July 2, 1970), provides that the requirements of Art. 1 (2) of the presidential decree also apply to credit institutions and auxiliary organizations.

Limitations also affect indirect foreign investment by means of loans. An acuerdo (D.O. June 9, 1970) requires a permit from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit for loans in foreign currency or from foreign sources to "entities of the public sector," except loans intended to finance foreign imports properly allowed; or for refinancing foreign loans previously contracted where the primary purpose of refinancing was to achieve
better conditions for amortization or better interest rates. Only self-liquidating loans will be authorized as well as those which generate foreign currency for their payment and will be used exclusively to pay for imports within the scope of the project. These provisions also apply to national credit institutions; however, the Ministry may authorize foreign loans for purposes of international financial transactions.

Among others, Mexico has ratified the Postal Convention of the Americas and Spain, signed at Madrid in 1966 (D.O. March 6, 1970), and the International Coffee Convention of 1968 (D.O. April 3, 1970).

Finding that an “ever increasing number of aliens, not domiciled in Mexico, arrive in Mexico to sue for their divorces in some local courts of our country . . . which proceedings, frequently are conducted with a haste incompatible with the importance and seriousness of the marital tie and, in some cases, in violation of Art. 14 of the Constitution,” the President has submitted to the federal Congress a bill to prevent such quickie divorces (divorcios al vapor). In his initiative the President stressed the strict principles for recognition of foreign divorces established in the recent Hague convention and urged a corresponding amendment to the federal Nationality and Naturalization Law (1934) which allows aliens to establish their domicile in Mexico in accordance with the Civil Code for the Federal District and Territories (1928). Such amendment is, according to the same initiative, a matter of federal law and within the legislative power of the federal legislature (Art. 73, Sec. XVI of the Constitution). Retaining the principle that aliens may establish domicile in Mexico as well as to change and abandon it, the bill stresses that questions of this nature are subject to the federal Civil Code. Consequently the “jurisdiction based on territory cannot be changed by party agreement (prórroga) in proceedings for divorce or nullity of marriages between aliens, and no judicial or administrative authority may grant divorce or nullify a marriage of aliens unless accompanied by a document issued by the Ministry of Government certifying as to the aliens legal residence in the country and that his conditions and qualifications as an alien allow such proceedings. The bill does not make judicial acts executed in violation of this rule null and void but provides for penalties of fine, imprisonment and removal from judicial or administrative office. It is expected that the Fall session of the Legislature will adopt the bill, regardless of probable opposition from some states like Chihuahua.

NICARAGUA

A law, enacted on April 10, 1970, establishes regulations for the
operation of private investment companies in Nicaragua. The new law defines the transactions that such companies may undertake and sets minimum capital requirements and conditions of ownership. The law also authorizes the Central Bank to establish ceilings on the credit operations of these companies and on the growth of their assets and liabilities. It should be expected, therefore, that in the future, the Central Bank will review closely foreign borrowing by private investment companies. The finance companies have also been brought under the jurisdiction of the Superintendency of Banks.

PANAMA

A decree enacted in April, 1970, improved considerably the social security benefits accruing to workers. It also makes it compulsory for public and private enterprises to insure their employees through the Social Security Fund.

Executive Decree No. 9 (1970) defines operative terms and outlines the official procedures involved in establishing and registering a commercial relationship in Panama. These regulations clarify Cabinet Decree No. 344 of Oct. 31, 1969 regarding the rights and responsibilities of local representatives, agents and distributors of foreign and national firms.

PARAGUAY

Decree-Law No. 33 of March 1970 authorizes banks to participate, either directly or indirectly, in forming finance companies to promote economic development.

PERU

The organization of the Supreme Court as set out in Decree-Law No. 18060 (2 Lawyer of the Americas 221, 1970) has been modified by Decree-Law No. 18.202 (1970) establishing three departments (salas), namely the first and second civil departments (the latter dealing also with matters of public law) and a penal department. An amendment to Art. 1125 of the Code of Civil Procedure denies recurso de nulidad in cases below 30,000 soles as well as those involving alimony below 10,000 soles monthly. A Supreme Decree (No. 012-70-PM, 1970) enacted a new regulation of judicial fees replacing a decree issued in 1961. Decree Law No. 18.326 (1970) regulates the election of judges by the Consejo Nacional de Justicia (2 Lawyer of the Americas 221, 1970), as implemented by Información Oficial (July 7, 1970). Decree Law No. 18.347 (1970)
established new judicial districts and authorized the Supreme Court to reorganize the judiciary and, if necessary, to transfer judicial personnel.

The work of the Commission to Reform the Civil Code has been revived by the appointment of a new chairman, designated by the Supreme Court (Resolución Suprema, No. 0068-70-PM). A commission to revise the Ley Orgánica del Poder Judicial (No. 14.604) was established by a Supreme Decree (No. 012-70-PM).

The membership of the Committee for the study and revision of the Criminal Code, established in 1965, has been replaced by a new team (Resolución Ministerial No. 050-70-MA. 1970).

The Supreme Court has adopted new regulations regarding registration of wills, including their modifications, revocations and related judgments (El Peruano, April 22, 1970).

A Federación Nacional de Colegios de Abogados was established by Decree Law No. 18.177 (1970). It is charged with representing the legal profession, deciding conflicts between individual Colegios, advocating for cultural interchanges with similar institutions abroad, maintaining a bibliographical and library service and, if deemed necessary, publishing a periodical.

In the area of labor law a Supreme Decree (No. 002-70-TR, 1970) guarantees domestic employees a nightly rest of at least eight hours and a weekly rest of 24 continuous hours; annual vacations of 15 days; and severance pay of 15 days for every year of employment. At the same time, the benefits of social security, as established by Laws No. 8.433 and 8.509, have been extended to cover domestic employees.

Credits available from Peruvian banks to subsidiaries of foreign enterprises have been limited by Decree Law No. 18.180 (1970) to the effect that they may not exceed the total amount of loans fixed annually by the Council of Monetary Policy, as allocated to individual subsidiaries by the Central Reserve Bank of Peru.

A new law regulating the Comisión Nacional de Valores has been enacted by Decree Law No. 18.302 (1970), replacing Law No. 17.020. The Commission shall study, regulate and supervise the securities market, exchanges and brokers.

In order to normalize the market in foreign currencies, Decree Law No. 18.275 (1970) enacted far reaching limitations. Natural and legal persons residing in Peru may not own or deposit foreign currency in
domestic monetary institutions, nor maintain claims or enter into contracts in foreign currency to be performed in Peru except in cases of employment of nonresidents where the contracts have been properly authorized. Holdings in foreign currency in local banks will be converted into national currency; the foreign currency will be acquired by the Central Reserve Bank. Natural or legal persons residing in Peru and holding deposits of foreign currency abroad must declare such holdings and sell them to the National Bank. Special provisions apply to tourists and diplomatic missions. Local residents are prohibited to use credit cards abroad. The Decree Law was amended by Decree Law No. 18.284 (1970) and Decree Law No. 18.300 (1970), the former in favor of aliens with a long residence in Peru. Regulations appeared as Decreto Supremo No. 072-20-EF (1970).

Dealings by public authorities in foreign currency was regulated by Decreto Supremo No. 070-70-EF (1970), charging the Consejo de Transacciones Externas del Sector Publico with the issuance of the proper authorizations and supervision.

In legislation dealing with natural resources, agrarian reform still is in need of additional action. The fundamental law, No. 17.716, was further amended by Decree Law No. 18.296 (1970). To "accelerate" the "realization of agrarian social justice," Decree Law No. 18.168 (1970) enacted additional amendments to the fundamental law and to its subsequent amendments (No. 17.800 and 18.003), granting a large array of procedural privileges to campesinos and improving procedures before agrarian courts. Decree Law No. 18.299 (1970) enacted rules to further the developments of agrarian cooperatives; elections in these cooperatives are regulated by Decreto Supremo No. 019-70-PM. Colonization of the Tierras de Montaña is regulated by Supreme Decree No. 50-70-AG (1970) as an agreement between the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Agriculture. Decree Law No. 18.348 (1970) created the Centro Nacional de Capacitación y Investigación para la Reforma Agraria (CENCIRA) and charged it with the study of technical, economic and social aspects of the agrarian reform. These studies will enable public officials and agrarian beneficiaries to better realize the reform program.

In the area of maritime matters, the Instituto del Mar del Peru created by the Organic Law of the Fisheries Sector (No. 18.121) has been charged in Decreto-Ley No. 18.204 (1970) with the scientific and technical work regarding the utilization of maritime resources in territorial and contiguous waters. Commerce in fish meal and oil was regulated by Decreto-Ley No. 18.212 (1970), amending Decree Law No. 18.121. The
Empresa Publica de Servicios Pesqueros (EPSP) was organized by Decree Law No. 18.252 (1970).

The Basic Law for Mining Reform (Decree Law No. 18.225, 1970) foresees a new General Mining Law based on a number of principles, among them that mineral resources are owned by the state; that mining is an activity in the public interest; that the State will grant licenses for exploitation and further prospecting. Additionally, that the State will support associations to replace foreign controlled enterprises, protect miners, and improve the administrative machinery. In addition to these declaratory provisions, the law contains operating provisions regarding processing and marketing of metals of which the latter is reserved to the State. In addition to provisions regulating taxation, the law encourages investments and creates the Empresa Minera del Perú as an autonomous administrative body. The remaining provisions deal with mixed mining enterprises designed to further participation of the state in such ventures.

The tasks of the Ministry of Energy and Mines regarding oil are stated in a ministerial resolution (No. 086-70-EM).

The Peruvian Steamship Company (Compañía Peruana de Vapores) received an organizational charter Decree Law No. 18.227 (1970).

A new General Industrial Law was enacted by Decree Law No. 18.350 (1970). Initially, it sets forth a number of basic policies, namely that general welfare is the aim of the state; that the present government aims at a permanent and self-sustained economic development through industry to achieve economic independence; that such development must be planned and utilize national natural resources; that such development needs incentives and harmonious cooperation between those who contribute capital and those who work. Industries are classified into four priority groups: primary, secondary, third and those without priority. The first priority includes metalurgy, basic chemicals, fertilizers, cement, and paper as well as a number of particular industries listed in Art. 4(1) (b) and (c). Those belonging to the basic industries are listed in detail in Title V of the Law. Of second priority are auxiliary industries which produce essential goods of general consumption related to food, garment, housing, health, education, culture, recreation and transportation; also agriculture, cattle industry, fisheries, mining, energy, construction, transportation and communications. Third priority industries include those which produce nonessential goods while industries without priority produce "superfluous" consumer goods. Industrial enterprises are classified as public, private (including corporate) and cooperative enterprises. Basic
industries are reserved to the public sector while private and cooperative enterprises may participate in industries not so reserved. Private and cooperative enterprises may participate in basic industries with state participation or without it, provided in both cases such enterprises accept (by contract) conditions under which the enterprises may revert to the State against the payment of a just indemnity. Title III establishes incentives, consisting of tax privileges, credits (including interest rates), administrative and technological aid, and advantages derived from decentralization. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce will classify industries according to the following criteria: national, social, economic and technological. With regard to participation of foreign capital, the law provides that enterprises organized exclusively with foreign capital shall enter with the State into a contract that—within a certain period and under certain conditions—permits the recovery of the invested capital and reasonable profits in order to reduce foreign participation to no more than one third of the capital. Industries which may not have more than 75% foreign capital must enter into similar contracts with the State in order to reduce foreign participation to 49%. In any case, the Executive will determine the percentage of foreign participation, provided the license to operate is offered through bids; if national interests and particular market conditions warrant such procedure; or whenever this should be necessary for a permanent and self-sustained industrial development. An industrial enterprise totally controlled by domestic capital may increase its capital from foreign sources only up to 33%, subject to a permit from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Far reaching innovations are introduced in regard to workers’ participation. Such participation includes participation in profits. Every industrial enterprise shall distribute 10% of its net profits among its workers: five percent in equal shares and five percent proportionally to their individual earnings. Further 15% of the net profits shall, tax free, become property of the industrial community (comunidad industrial) established in every enterprise in order to administer the assets accruing to workers under this law. This 15% shall be, as a rule, reinvested in the enterprise, for shares or bonds or other participation. Once this capital has reached 50% of the capital invested in the enterprise, workers will become individual owners of such shares or participation under conditions established for industrial cooperatives, to be regulated by a law regarding industrial communities. Annual profits accruing from such shares and participations will be distributed to individual workers who have worked in the enterprise for more than one year, half of them in equal shares, the other half pro-
portionate to their earnings. The administrative body of the industrial enterprise (organo director) shall include at least one representative from the industrial community; in public enterprises engaged in basic industries such administrative body shall include two representatives from the industrial community. In no case may the industrial community transfer shares or other kinds of participation or waive its profits. The law also provides for penalties, transitory provisions (Title III) and for a number of definitions (Title IV).

A Commission for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by the earthquake of May 31, 1970 (CRYRZA), established by Decree Law No. 18.306 (1970), was implemented by a Supreme Decree (No. 025-70-PM, 1970).

Decree Law No. 18.339 (1970) has given new powers to the Empresa de Administración de Inmuebles (established by Decree Law No. 17.729, 1969).

The Government has promised a new Commercial Code which will regulate banking and other non-industrial enterprises.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Under the pressure of April 1970 disorders, the Emergency Powers Act (1970) was enacted to remain in force during the period of public emergency. Amendments have been discussed by the Legislature, among them, the application in connection with the act of the Corporal Punishment Ordinance giving Magistrate Courts the power to order flogging or whipping.

Among new legislative drafts, bills regarding the status of illegitimate children and a new divorce law are being considered. The Ministry of Justice has also drafted a Public Order Act.

The Cabinet has approved in principle the adoption of the metric system.

A new bill covering Exchange Control has been introduced. If it becomes law it will replace the earlier Defense Finance Regulations dealing with Exchange Control.

UNITED STATES

In the area of education, significant legislation was recently passed. The Veterans Education and Training Amendments Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 76) increased allowances and introduced special assistance for the educa-
tionally disadvantaged, predischarge education, and a veterans outreach services program. In order to guarantee a uniform application of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendment of 1966 in regard to desegregation, an extensive Elementary, Secondary, and Other Education Amendments Act of 1969 was enacted (84 Stat. 121), including also an Education of the Handicapped Act of 1970. The school lunch program based on the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Act of 1966, was expanded (84 Stat. 214).

The number of federal district judges was increased (84 Stat. 294). The Customs Courts Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 274) amended respective provisions in the Judiciary Act (28 U.S.C.), dealing with their jurisdiction, appeals and procedures; the Tariff Act (1930) also was amended by the added Customs Administrative Act of 1970.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was extended for another five years; it declared that citizens of 18 years have an “inherent right to vote,” and that it is “necessary to prohibit the denial of the right to vote to citizens” 18 years of age or over.

The Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act of 1969 (84 Stat. 87) aims at informing the public about dangers of smoking and provides for restrictions on advertising. Medical Facilities Construction and Modernization Amendments of 1970 (84 Stat. 336) also were adopted.

In the area of transportation, aviation and motor vehicles have prompted additional legislation. The Airport and Airway Developments Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 219) finding the existing airport and airway system inadequate provides for the formulation of a national transportation policy regarding airports; extensive amendments to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 are included; and an Airport and Airway Revenue Act of 1970 is added. The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 was amended (84 Stat. 262).

Government participation at international expositions was regulated (84 Stat. 271). The law provides for the possibility of such expositions in the United States to be recognized by the federal government; governmental participation requires congressional authorization.

The Immigration and Naturalization Act was amended (84 Stat. 116) regarding, among others, the entry of persons of “distinguished merit and ability.”

The establishment of an international animal quarantine station in the United States is foreseen (84 Stat. 202), to be located on an island where “maximum animal disease and pest security measures can be maintained.”
The Postal Reorganization and Salary Adjustment Act of 1970, changing the Post Office from an administrative department to an independent governmental agency was signed into law by the President.

Congress enacted for the District of Columbia an Anatomical Gift Act (84 Stat. 266), regulating gifts of parts of the body (organs, tissues, eyes, bones, arteries, blood, other fluids and portions of a human body) by persons qualified in accordance with Sec. 2, to persons and to institutions listed in Sec. 3; the law also regulates the execution of such gifts, delivery of the document, including revocation or amendment, as well as rights and duties at death.

URUGUAY

In view of normalization, martial law imposed on employees in telecommunications and in fuel, alcohol and cement production was lifted (Decrees No. 465 and 455, 1969); bank employees followed (Decree No. 515, 1969). However, regulations regarding firearms have been tightened (Decree No. 601, 1969).

In economic matters the following measures may be mentioned. The Government, relying on its anti-monopoly powers, intervened directly in several large corporations; the measures primarily affected enterprises with foreign capital (Decree No. 527, 1969). A Senate Committee was granted special powers to investigate financial, commercial and industrial organizations; the charge provides heavy penalties in case cooperation is denied. A ministerial decree (No. 491, 1969) implements a decree issued on September 2, 1969, regarding the development of the car-rental business. The exploitation and marketing of precious and semi-precious stones was regulated (Decree No. 5, 1970). Another decree (No. 493, 1969) facilitates the entry of tourists and their property into Uruguay. Import duties received additional exemptions (Decrees No. 468, 469, 532, 539, 1969).

Public Officials have been ordered (Decree No. 9, 1970) to register in a general register of public officials which shall contain relevant personal data.

Regulations for the exploitation of mineral deposits in and along the territorial waters are set forth in Decree No. 535 (1969); the extensions of the territorial sea to 200 miles (2 Lawyer of the Americas 227, 279, 1970) in Decree No. 604 (1969).

Among international conventions recently adopted by Uruguay, the following may be listed: the United Nations Convention on Diplomatic
Immunities and Consular Relations (Law No. 13. 774, 1969); the Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Flora, Fauna and Scenic Beauties of the Americas (Law No. 13.777); a commercial treaty with Roumania (Laws No. 13.787 and 13.788, 1969); a treaty between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to stimulate general development and integration (Law No. 13.801, 1969); the LAFTA Protocol for the Solution of Controversies among Members (Law No. 13.802, 1969); an agreement with Hungary for credits destined for capital goods (Law No. 13.799, 1969), and two agreements with Israel for scientific and technical cooperation and for commercial activities (Law No. 13.800, 1969).

VENEZUELA

The interaction of various autonomous institutions of public administration is regulated by Decree No. 280 (1970). To this effect, a Council of Autonomous Institutions was established to work through a number of commissions which will deal with regional development, credit operations, industrial development, social protection, scientific and technical research, higher education, and cultural matters.

An extensive and detailed regulation was issued for the national racetrack La Rincinada (G.O. No. 1.402, extraord., May 27, 1970).

The national regulation of savings and loans was reformed by a resolution of the Ministry of Finance (G.O. No. 1.409, June 9, 1970).

Decree No. 328, (1970) maintains the subsidy for milk consumption. It was followed by a resolution dated July 3, 1970 regulating policy with regard to the consumption of milk.

Improvement and diversification of coffee and cacao plantations are planned under Decree No. 326 (1970).

The Convention Andres Bello of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Integration of the Andine Region, signed in Bogota on January 31, 1970, was approved.

Recently, a law regulating dentistry was enacted (G.O. No. 29.288, 1970); also another for the protection of the forestal fauna (G.O. No. 29.289, 1970).

A bill to amend the present banking law is expected to be introduced in the Legislature. One of its aims is to curtail operations of foreign banks in the country.