Inter-American Legal Developments

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ARGENTINA

A new Law of Organization and Procedure before the National Labor Judiciary has been enacted by Law No. 18.345 (1969). Labor courts consist of courts of first instance and a National Chamber of Labor Appeals which have jurisdiction over all individual labor disputes, including those declaratory in nature (Art. 20). Venue is determined at the choice of the plaintiff at the place of employment, at the place of the making of the contract, or at the domicile of the defendant (Art. 24).

The status of Argentina railways is regulated by Law No. 18.360 (1969).

The United Nations sponsored Convention regarding consent and the minimum age to marry and the marriage registry (1962) was adopted by Law No. 18.444 (1969).

Law No. 17.604 regulating private universities, was implemented by Decree No. 8.472 (1969). The law defines, the powers of the Ministry of Culture and Education on the subject, establishes sanctions to be applied against private universities for violating legal requirements and sets conditions for the recognition of studies undertaken at foreign universities.

The aims of industrial development are regulated by Laws No. 18.587, 18.588, and 18.589 (1969), implemented by Decree No. 60. Art. 6 of Law No. 18.587 (1969), inter alia, establishes conditions under which foreign investments are permitted, and gives preference to investments which associate themselves with domestic capital and to those which plan to reinvest their profits in the country.

Law No. 18.502 (1969) grants provinces the exercise of jurisdiction over territorial waters, i.e., three miles into the sea from the low-water line, except in the Gulf of San Matias and San Jorge where provincial jurisdiction will be measured from a base line. The Republic retains jurisdiction beyond the territorial waters up to a distance of 200 miles.
For employees within the coverage of the Commercial Code, Law No. 18.523 (1970) has prescribed that the termination of employment contracts by mutual agreement as well as by resignations shall be valid only if they are consummated before administrative authorities, police or notaries (escribanos públicos) at the place of employment. These provisions, added as paragraph nine of Art. 157 of the Commercial Code, are intended to eliminate uncertainties frequently associated with termination of employment, particularly in those cases where oral statements present difficult questions of evidence. In view of the importance of employment, such significant acts by both parties to the relationship should be clear and definite, as well as free from any kind of compulsion.

Administrative decentralization under Law No. 18.586 (1970) includes the transfer to the provinces of all organizations and functions presently carried by the national government which, according to the Constitution, are within the powers of the provinces or within the concurrent jurisdiction of the national government and the provinces. The transfer will also affect all related assets, movables and immovables, as well as the personnel. Mutual indebtedness related to matters transferred will be stricken.

An extensive and detailed regulation concerning the payment of salaries has been introduced by Law No. 18.596 (1970). Salaries must be paid in cash; if by check or by crediting a bank account, only up to an amount (Art. 1) allowed by an executive regulation (Art. 2), i.e., Art. 2 of Decree No. 684 (1970). The law establishes weekly or biweekly paydays (Art. 3), the period of payment after the salary becomes due (Art. 5), the place and the time of the day, and prohibits payment in stores and taverns (Art. 7). Other provisions deal with advances (Art. 8), withholdings (Arts. 9 to 11), and with exceptions (Arts. 12 to 15). The law also provides for a strict system of receipts (Arts. 6 to 20) and limits garnishments and assignments (Arts. 21 to 22) up to an amount to be determined by an implementing regulation (Art. 22). The regulation, Decree No. 684, provides that garnishments or assignments may affect only ten or twenty percent of the salary (Art. 3).

The termination of employment in banks, insurance companies, reinsurance and savings institutions is now regulated by Law No. 18.598 (1970), amending Art. 3 of Law No. 12.637 (1940). The employer may not terminate a contract except for a just cause as defined by the law.

Powers of the national government in labor matters have been defined by Law No. 18.608 (1970). These powers will be exercised throughout the national territory (Art. 1) in regard to matters connected
with inter-provincial or international commerce; over enterprises operating under federal permits or on national property and in relation to rules originating from the national government (Art. 3). The Secretaría de Estado de Trabajo will perform these functions (Art. 4). Related penal sanctions are contained in Art. 6. The law is implemented by Decree No. 736 (1970).

Jurisdiction in Antarctica is defined by Law No. 18.513 (1970); the Comisión Nacional del Antártico is replaced by the Dirección Nacional del Antártico.

A National Institute for Social Work is created by Law No. 18.610 (1969) to regulate social work performed by the state and by professional organizations.

Buenos Aires

The office of the Attorney General is regulated by Law No. 7.484 (1969); zoning by Decree No. 4.660 (1969).

Cordoba

A decree regulating assets owned by business enterprises was enacted. (No. 7.776, 1969).

Formosa

Juvenile criminal courts have been established by Law No. 399 (1969).

La Rioja

A law regulating misdemeanors was enacted (No. 3.281, 1969). Laws regarding expropriation (No. 3.289, 1969) and the protection of minors (No. 3.290, 1969) were also enacted.

Neuquen

Game and fishing is now regulated by Decree No. 1.185 (1969).

Rio Negro

Municipal government was regulated by Decree-Law No. 1 (1969).

San Luis

The tax law of 1963 was amended by Law No. 3.319 (1969).
BARBADOS

The Companies Act (1910) was amended by Act. No. 2 (1969-56) so as to allow foreign companies (from outside of the Commonwealth) to hold such land on the island as it may be authorized by a license issued by the Government, provided such companies submit a certified copy of their charters and related documents, a list of directors, the names of one or more local residents authorized to accept service of process on their behalf, as well as file a balance sheet annually with the registrar. Any foreign company licensed as a bank under the Banking Act. (No. 45, 1963) shall also be able to hold land in the island "by way of security for mortgage loans and otherwise for the purpose of carrying on banking business as a company incorporated under this Act."

The Attorney General described the control of foreign land holding as a "ticklish political question," particularly since sales of land do not originate with the Government but with residents seeking a profit. Experiences from government's attempts to restrict such sales were discouraging. The Attorney General also stressed the need for machinery to discipline the legal profession and called price and rent controls to be "very vital" to the island.

A new Insurance Act is about to come into force.

The new Health Services Regulations require all places of business to secure a health permit. Supermarkets, groceries, ice cream plants, soft drink plants, hospitals and schools are included.

BOLIVIA

The Government is considering reintroducing the death penalty for particular crimes, among them murder of one’s father, rape of minors and treason. The death penalty was abolished in 1967.


BRAZIL

Decree Law No. 494 (1969) prohibiting acquisition of land by foreign or foreign controlled companies has been amended by another decree (No. 924, 1969). The amendment makes the prohibition inapplicable to such companies whenever the Executive Group of the Industrial Development Council in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce finds
that purchases of land in rural areas for industrial development are beneficial to the national economy.

Brazil has extended its territorial waters to a distance of 200 miles. The previous regulation appears translated in 8 (5) International Legal Materials 989 (1969).


A new Criminal Code entered into force January 1, 1970. The most significant changes appear to be: lowering of the age for criminal liability from 18 to 16 years; adultery remains a crime which, in many modern codes, is a violation prosecuted only by the other spouse; and furtum usus, i.e., the illegal use of a thing without intent to appropriate it, is now a crime. Minor modifications involve attempt, the state of emergency, some aspects of penalties, among them imprisonment, "open" prisons, recidivists, habitual criminals, and probation.

On January 23, 1970, the President signed a law declaring pornography subversive since it "endangers the national security through the encouragement of immorality and free love and threatens to destroy the moral values of the Brazilian society."

Decree-Law No. 1,079 authorizes the issue of National Treasury Bonds to establish and develop open market operations during 1970.

A draft of a revised corporation law is being circulated among interested governmental entities. The projected law which seeks to provide greater protection to the investor will be reviewed by a panel of legal experts before it is submitted to the Congress.

A new Industrial Property Code became effective on December 20, 1969. Its salient points:

1) New patents will be valid for 15 years after which they will become public property;

2) the periods and protection established by the old Code will apply to privileges granted prior to the new Code;

3) annual rates due on new patents and those prior to the new Code are instituted. Non-payment of such rates will incur the lapse of the privilege.
BRITISH WEST INDIES

Anguilla

A Commission established to find a “satisfactory and durable solution” to the status of the island is inviting memoranda from interested persons and organizations. The Commission is composed of a Canadian diplomat and professor as Chairman, a lawyer from Jamaica, a lecturer from the University of the West Indies and an economist from Guyana.

In February a judge from the West Indies Supreme Court was prevented by a large crowd from holding the first session in three years. A local leader alleged that he had “nothing against the court, but the political situation should be settled first.”

Antigua

The Legislature adopted a government sponsored Protection of Wages Act designed to prevent union shops in the island. As a consequences, any withholding of union dues requires written consent of the worker.

Bahamas

The Genocide Act (No. 39, 1969) created the offense of genocide as defined in Art. II of the Genocide Convention of 1948 and provides that if the offense consists of killing any person, the guilty party will be sentenced to death (Sec. 3, para. 3); in other cases he will be imprisoned for a period up to fourteen years.

An act (No. 30, 1969) provides for the organization of the Governor’s staff.

The act to provide for the appointment of judicial trustees (No. 36, 1969) makes it discretionary with the court to appoint a trustee on behalf of a person “creating or intending to create a trust” as well as on behalf of a trustee or beneficiary.

Elections are now governed by the Representation of the People Act (No. 40, 1969).

A number of acts in force have been amended, among them; the Casino Taxation Act of 1967 (No. 31, 1969); the Illiterates Protection Act (No. 33, 1969), and the Supreme Court Act (No. 34, 1969). In the current year, amendments of the Bahamas Monetary Authority (Amendment) Act (No. 2, 1970) and the Immigration (Amendment) Act (No. 3, 1970) may be listed.
Barbuda

Barbuda, for some 110 years attached to Antigua "without the knowledge or consent of its residents" insists on independence. The government of Antigua responded by increasing the police force in Barbuda from 3 to 25.

Grenada

The government has initiated a new land reform program to "rectify gross injustices against poor people." Applications for permissions to hold land must, according to a Cabinet decision, be channelled through licensed local real estate agents.

The government is about to submit to the Legislature a law to introduce the cat-o-nine-tail floggings as a new measure to cope with the increasing lawlessness on the island. This punishment shall be used for particular types of crimes such as molestation, larceny from the person, abusive and obscene language, disorderly conduct and throwing things resulting in danger to others.

Montserrat

The Chief Minister recently emphasized that the island "will remain a colony of Britain until we become economically viable enough to consider independence."

St. Kitts

A bill to give the government a greater say in the sugar industry is before the Legislature; difficulties have arisen from a recent strike of workers in the island's only sugar factory. The bill provides for the establishment of an advisory board of seven persons and gives the appropriate Minister the authority to issue regulations, including penalties.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Land registration is continued in accordance with the Land Survey Law (No. 4, 1967), the Land Adjudication Law (No. 8, 1967), and the Registered Land Law (No. 11, 1967) implemented by Survey Regulations (1967).

The exemption under the Jamaican Exchange Control Act (No. 50, 1954) in regard to limitation of import and export to Jamaica of Jamaican currency (more than 20 Jamaican dollars) has been terminated.
by an order of the Jamaican Minister of Finance. Permission is required for larger imports or export of Jamaican currency; also there is a duty imposed on local residents to offer foreign currency to an authorized local dealer. The order applies also to the Cayman Islands.

**West Indies Associated States**

Since the status as associated states of the Commonwealth did not produce the expected changes, members of the Association consider independence as another solution, complaining that their British passports do not secure immigration to Britain nor give them the opportunity to bargain with Britain in matters of defense and foreign affairs. Some kind of federation with other Caribbean countries, even with those outside of the Commonwealth, is being discussed. But the underlying fear of stronger partners which liquidated the West Indies Federation still persists.

**CANADA**

Recently, the following amendments have been assented to involving customs tariffs, excise tax, income tax and the Company of Young Canadians. The House of Commons is considering a bill (No. C-192) to expand the jurisdiction of the Exchequer Court into a court with a trial and appellate division to take cognizance of actions against the Government and of citizenship matters.

The newly published Statutes of Canada (1968/1969) contains statutory materials dealing with aeronautics (Ch. 13), anti-dumping (Ch. 10), evidence (Ch. 14), shipping (Ch. 53), overseas telecommunications (Ch. 30), criminal law (Ch. 38), customs (Ch. 12,18), exports (Ch. 39), marketing of fish (Ch. 21), government organization (Ch. 28), hazardous products (Ch. 42), income and estate tax (Ch. 33,44), housing (Ch. 45,46), navigable water protection (Ch. 15), official language (Ch. 54), oil and gas production and conservation (Ch. 48), patents (Ch. 49,55), pesticides (Ch. 39), regional development (Ch. 56), and TELESAT (Ch. 51).

Canada is taking unilateral action to extend its territorial limit to 12 miles offshore because it “cannot wait any longer” for the international community to come to agreement on offshore limits, External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp told the Commons in mid-April, 1970. Mr. Sharp was speaking on the second reading of a Bill that would empower the Cabinet to set out zones for exclusive Canadian fishing as well as to extend Canada’s territorial sea limit.
Alberta

Acts dealing with colleges, and goals and prisons have been enacted as were amendments to the Insurance Corporations Tax Act and the Companies Act (both of 1965).

British Columbia

A Motorist Insurance Company Act was enacted (1969), also amendments to the Credit Unions Act (1965).

Manitoba

Among recent enactments assented to the following may be mentioned: the Agricultural Credit Corporation Act (1969), the Consumers Protection Act (1969) and amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (1966) and the Income Tax Act.

New Brunswick

A Potato Industry Act (1969) has taken effect as did amendments to the Hospital Schools Act.

Newfoundland

The Physiotherapy Act (1966) entered into force as did amendments to acts dealing with child welfare, urban and rural planning, and insurance companies (1969).

Nova Scotia

A Planning Act (1969) took effect as did amendments to the Credit Union Act (1969).

Ontario


Prince Edward Islands

The Adoption Act (1969) came into force.

Quebec

A number of acts were assented to, among them, acts dealing with lotteries and racing, wild life conservation, conciliation between lessee and landlords, Courts of Justice, workmens' compensation, collective
agreements, nurses, dairy products and substitutes, and probation and houses of detention.

Two acts deserve particular mention. The act Respecting Matrimonial Regimes (1969) establishes partnership of acquests between spouses on the basis of complete equality. Even though the husband is no longer the head of the marital association, he remains the administrator of the common property and as such must prevent such assets from being encumbered against his will. This bill also does away with the principle of immutability of the marital property regime. Spouses may, during their marriage, modify such regime without affecting interests of the family or of their creditors. However, the status of gifts may not be changed without the consent of interested parties; this must be done by a notarial act, homologated by the court, be served on interested parties and, in order to take effect with regard to third parties, be registered in the central register of matrimonial regimes, regulated by another act (1969).

The Act Respecting Co-ownership of Immovables (1969) is designed to establish a form of ownership under which an immovable belongs to several persons, each of whom owns a physical part thereof. In addition to such exclusive portions, reserved for the exclusive use of such co-owner, there shall be common portions, e.g., walls, stairs, elevators. A co-owner may dispose of his interests, but may not claim partition before termination of the arrangement. Such arrangements shall be registered.

Saskatchewan


CHILE

Law No. 17.284 (D.O. January 23, 1970) amended Arts. 7, 10, 27, 39, 43, 45, 46, 48, 51, 53, 55, 67, 78 (a,b,c), 108, 109, 110 of the Constitution. The most significant changes are: the voting age is reduced from 21 to 18 years and the requirement of literacy is eliminated; Cabinet ministers are authorized to leave the country for ten days without permission from the Chamber of Deputies; the President is authorized to leave the national territory for fifteen days without the approval of Congress; the President is authorized to issue decrees concerning organizations devoted to state and municipal services; the President is granted exclusive initiative to present legislative bills in relation to certain taxation, social and economic matters; different procedures are established to ac-
celerate the promulgation of laws; a Constitutional Tribunal is created to resolve matters concerning the constitutionality of laws, the incapacity of Ministers, and disputes between public organs; the plebiscite is extended to all legislative bills concerning constitutional reforms in which the Congress rejects totally or partially the observations made by the President of the Republic.

COLOMBIA

Law No. 68 (1968) dealing with the judicial organization, and the Code of Civil as well as the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code were amended by Law No. 16 (1969). Modifications regarding judicial administration deal — among others — with superior district courts; divide the civil chamber of the Supreme Court (for one year) into two sections, and define jurisdiction of labor courts in regard to arbitral awards and availability of cassation for errors in findings of fact. The amendments also define the jurisdiction of police which takes cognizance of misdemeanors, of cases involving bodily injury accompanied with incapacity of less than 15 days, of delicts against property of lesser value, and of “antisocial conduct as defined by law.” The amended Art. 293 of the Criminal Code punishes kidnapping while the amended Art. 294 deals with illegal deprivation of freedom, a provision applicable to hijacking. Amendments also affect bail (Art. 17).

A new law dealing with mines and oil deposits was enacted as Law No. 20 (1969). It proclaims that all mines and oil deposits pertain to the nation, regardless of interests therein vested in third persons (Art. 1). Such interests will accrue to the nation — except in cases of force majeur or accident — whenever such persons do not start their exploitation within three years from the enactment of the present law, or if exploitation, once started, was suspended for more than one year (Art. 2). The mining industry is declared to be a “public utility and in the social interest;” the government has the power to expropriate mining interests against an indemnity in the amount of actual investments (Art. 7). Mines may be exploited under concessions granted by the Government (Art. 8). In cases of concessions granted to foreign investors the Government may impose a fair domestic participation and determine methods to protect and expand it (Art. 9). Oil deposits may be declared national reserves and granted to the Empresa Colombiana de Petróleos (Art. 12). The Empresa, attached to the Ministry of Mines and Oils as reorganized by Decree No. 3161 (1961), is regulated by Decree No. 122 (D.O. No. 32994, February 14, 1970).
Since the Supreme Court, as reported in 1 (3) *Lawyer of the Americas* 72 (1969), ruled the bankruptcy decree of 1940 invalid, a Decree (No. 2264, 1969) has enacted the first title of book VII of the draft for the Commercial Code (D.O. No. 32985, February 4, 1970). The enactment deals both with compromise settlements outside as well as within bankruptcy and with bankruptcy proper, available only to merchants. Among other innovations, the decree introduced the facultative compromise settlement (*concordato preventivo*, Arts. 1 to 15); such settlement is compulsory for enterprises under control of the state, or with an indebtedness of more than five million pesos, or employing more than a hundred workers, or performing a public service (Art. 16). Enterprises of mixed economy and those owned by the state will be dissolved and liquidated whenever a settlement is not reached (Art. 17). Banks under the control of the *Superintendencia Bancaria* will not be the object of bankruptcy but of liquidation (Art. 19). Rights and duties of trustees in bankruptcy are closely defined (Arts. 37 to 44). Bankruptcy as such is no more a crime, but only specific intentional or negligent acts in connection therewith; criminal responsibility of directors and managers has been extended (Arts. 77 to 89).

Tariff and exchange problems connected with operations of free zones are regulated by Decree No. 039 (1970). Trade in foreign currency must be conducted through the *Banco de la República*; payments for service in the zones must be in national currency (Art. 11). Foreign capital located in free zones and its transfer must be reported to the Gerencia of the zone for statistical purposes (Art. 12). Colombian businesses established in the zone remain subject to domestic exchange controls (Art. 13), with some exceptions (Art. 14), but nevertheless under the control of the *Oficina de Cambios* (Art. 15).


Decree Law No. 2204 (1969), followed by Regulations No. 2265 and 2266 (1969), deals with the status of auxiliary judicial personnel among them experts, sequesters, liquidators, translators, curators, and guardians *ad litem*.

Law No. 41 (1969) regulates the statutes of professional economists. An academic degree awarded by a domestic university is required. Foreign degrees will only be recognized if awarded by universities of countries with which Colombia has conventions on recognition of academic titles.
The Instituto de Desarrollo de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (INDERENA) has issued an acuerdo (No. 20, D.O. 33,006, February 29, 1970) to protect the fauna and to regulate gaming.

Concerning international conventions, Colombia has ratified the International Sugar Convention (New York, 1968), and the convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Lisbon, 1958).

In December 1969, the President presented to Congress a draft Planning Law based on the constitutional reforms begun in '68. Under the proposed law, investment programs of the public sector will be subject to approval and revision by Congress; the draft law also gives the Executive authority to borrow up to $1.6 billion to help finance projects in current and future public investment programs, and to issue domestically some $69 million of economic development bonds to help supplement public savings. As part of the proposed law, the Government submitted to Congress a completed public investment program for the period '70-'72.

COSTA RICA

A House of Culture was established in Nicoya by Law No. 4.484 (December 15, 1969) to advance literature, arts and sciences; the law provides for financial resources as well as for the construction of necessary buildings.

The Association of Graduates in Social and Economic Sciences was established by Law No. 4.505 (December 18, 1969) to further research as well as encourage professional solidarity among members. The Association will also promote social and economic sciences in Costa Rica in cooperation with the University and will represent the professional interests of its members.

The American Convention on Human Rights signed in San José, Costa Rica, on November 22, 1959, by El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay, Panama, Chile, Uruguay, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Costa Rica, was ratified by Law No. 4.534 (1970).

CUBA

The law on hijacking appears in 8 (6) International Legal Materials 1175 (1969).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A new law regulating extradition, generally modernizing extradition
proceedings, transfers most of the functions from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Organic Law of Tourism (No. 541, 1970) contains, in addition to administrative regulations, a number of provisions dealing with contracts and liabilities arising from tourism. They involve tourist agencies, tourist guides and liabilities of hotels and restaurants. Tourist agencies may only operate under a permit; for the sale of tickets for travel abroad a special authorization is needed (Art. 12). Agencies must comply with their contracts (Art. 16) to prevent the loss of permit; in case that circumstances beyond control demand cancellation of reservation or contracts, notice must be given to the customer and to the tourist authority (Dirección Nacional de Turismo) 48 hours in advance (Art. 17). Foreign travel agencies may operate in the Republic upon compliance with the general requirements; they also must name representatives with known offices and addresses in the Republic (Art. 18). Travel agencies organizing tours abroad must provide written contracts with provisions listed in the law (Art. 19). Tourist guides must be licensed; however, such licenses will be given to aliens only under exceptional circumstances (Art. 23). Hotels and restaurants must display their prices (Arts. 30, 31) and are prohibited from giving commissions to guides, cabbies, and similar persons (Art. 34). Hotels are not responsible for the loss of effects unless they are specifically entrusted to their custody (Art. 36), nor are hotels responsible for damages caused to cars parked in their parking lots (Arts. 36). Property of guests may be retained for the payment of their bills (Art. 37); defaulting guests may be evicted (Art. 37).

The Government has submitted to Congress a draft law dealing with relations between gas and oil station operators and distributors.

A draft law to create an Institute of Sports was submitted to the Chamber.

In regard to agrarian reform, the President has pointed out recently that out of 6.751 km² of arable land only 2.886 km² lends itself to small intensive farming which might support an average family. In view of this, only some 75,000 families may profit from agrarian reform. However, he acknowledged the serious situation of share-croppers whose rent amounts to 3/4 of their products. A group of priests pointed out that only 1,068 families have received land under agrarian reform, i.e., some 2% of families in need of land. This situation is particularly unjust in view of the fact that 676 persons own 9,860,000 tarreas of land as compared with 6,242,000 tarreas presently cultivated by 310,000 persons.
ECUADOR


EL SALVADOR

The Civil Code was amended in two places: Art. 1618 dealing with the sale of somebody else's property (Legislative Decree No. 574, D.O. No. 233, December 15, 1969), and Art. 2147 prohibiting the appropriation of pledged assets without resort to judicial process (Legislative Decree No. 593, D.O. 593, January 9, 1970).

The establishment and functioning of cooperatives is regulated by the law of Cooperative Associations (Legislative Decree No. 559, D.O. No. 229, December 9, 1969); furthermore, a Salvadorean Institute for Cooperative Development was established (Legislative Decree No. 560, D.O. No. 229, December 9, 1969).

Legislative decrees No. 576 and 577 (D.O. No. 233, December 15, 1969) amended the law applicable to leaseholds, some aspects of judicial jurisdiction as well as fees on petitions for cassation. Pensions to judicial personnel have been amended by Legislative Decree No. 596 (D.O. No. 5, January 9, 1970).

The Legislature is still occupied with drafts dealing with agrarian reform, banks and other financial institutions and with the regulation of radio stations.

Preliminary drafts regarding traffic and judicial sales of automobiles are under consideration by the respective administrative agencies.

In 1957 the government appointed a committee to prepare a draft for a new commercial code to replace the code enacted in 1904. After two years the committee submitted a draft based on two main principles: commercial acts are those executed in bulk quantities and commercial law is the law regulating the commercial enterprise. The draft introduced into the Code novel institutions, among them the limited liability firm, the individual enterprise with limited liability, fiduciary certificate of participation and voluntary arbitration. Additional materials have been incorporated from related enactments, for example, laws dealing with warehouse, agrarian and industrial chattel mortgages, savings deposits,
trusts and financial institutions. There is hope that the draft will be discussed by the Legislature during the current session.

In late March, the Legislative Assembly passed a new Banking Law. The law, which makes extensive changes in the banking structure of the Republic, was vetoed by the President.

FRENCH ANTILLES and GUIANA

A new minimum salary of 107.509 francs for a 40 hours work has been set by Decree No. 69-666 of August 4, 1969; it applies to workers covered by Decree No. 51-342 of March 1, 1951.

The organization of courts in Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as in Guiana has been modified by Decree No. 69-1009 of November 3, 1969, amending the prior Decree No. 62-138, issued February 2, 1962.

A reorganization of local administration, involving municipalities, cantons and circuits, has been undertaken by Decree No. 69-1263 of March 17, 1969, replacing the previous law No. 51-1098 (September 14, 1951), according to Art. 27 of Law No. 96-1263 (December 31, 1969, D.O. January 4, 1970).

GUATEMALA

A Code of Minors (Código de Menores) has been enacted by Decree No. 61 (1969) to deal primarily with juvenile delinquency. Three types of actions are foreseen: protective, preventive and corrective (Art. 3), to be exercised by the National Institute for the Protection of Youth and by juvenile courts (Art. 5) which shall have exclusive jurisdiction in these matters (Art. 34). Juvenile courts may apply a number of measures: warnings, fines imposed on responsible adults, placement of the juvenile in an educational institution and, finally, internment in a re-educational center (Art. 43). Particular provisions deal with abandoned children (Arts. 55 to 57).

Congressional legislative actions dealt with the reorganization of the Labor Ministry (Decree 15, 1970); prohibition of export of specified kinds of timber (Decree 7, 1970), and with the amendment of Art. 129 of the Agrarian Reform Law (Decree No. 12, 1970).

Administrative regulations dealt with the Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (O.G., Jan. 2, 1970); exportation of cotton seeds (O.G., Jan. 3, 1970); rural transportation (O.G., Jan. 8, 1970); contracts between mining companies and particularly operators (O.G., Jan. 27, 1960);

A new Commercial Code was adopted by the Legislature as Decree No. 2 (1970). It will be summarized in the forthcoming issue of the Lawyer of the Americas.

A bill seeking to regulate the installation and operation of sugar mills is being considered by the Economic Committee of the Congress.

The Executive has submitted draft legislation to the Congress on the civil service of Guatemala, particularly on matters relating to retirements and pensions.

GUYANA

The Prime Minister recently stressed the need to "fashion a legal system relevant to the country." Foreseeing the cut of formal ties with the English judiciary, he expressed the need that the inherited English legal system be adapted to changed circumstances particularly since, after achieving independence, the nation has matured and may "with greater objectivity look at what they have learned and what they should continue to accept or reject."

During the discussion whether to continue or discontinue ties with the Privy Council, the leader of the opposition People's Progressive Party declared himself in favor of independence but against the abolishment of the appeal to the Privy Council on the ground that this step may erode civil liberties in Guyana.

A four man committee was appointed by the Government to study certain aspects of criminal reform, among them the abolition of death penalty for capital crimes. It also will consider the extent to which convicted felons may be involved in in Guyana's "self-help revolution and in the development of the interior."

The role of cooperatives in the new "cooperative republic" shall be strengthened by measures to protect cooperatives from dishonest people.

The Legislature refused to enact recommendations by the International Labor Organization for the improvement of life and work of tenants, sharecroppers and similar agricultural workers as inapplicable to conditions in Guyana.

JAMAICA

The Law Revision Act (No. 42, 1969) gives the Governor-General
the power to appoint Statute Law Commissioners (Art. 3) to "cause to be prepared, maintained and published an edition of the laws of Jamaica ... which edition shall be known for all purposes as the "Revised Laws of Jamaica" (Art. 4). These laws shall be published in loose-leaf form (Art. 5) and contain every law in force, regulations and other subsidiary legislation and any Commonwealth law which the Commissioners "think fit to include therein," as well as a chronological table, table of contents and an index (Art. 8). Annually, the Commissioners will also prepare pages containing new legislation (Art. 10). The Act also gives extensive instruction on what to omit from the planned consolidation (Art. 11) and is followed by schedules containing lists of enactments and changes therein.

Two acts dealing with transportation have been enacted: the Public Passenger Transportation (Rural Area) Act (No. 40, 1969), dealing with licenses and establishing a Board of Control, and an amendment to the Road Traffic Law (No. 41, 1969) adding criminal sanctions for causing death (Art. 25 A and B). Some changes have been enacted in regard to the Judicature (Rules of Court) Law (No. 21, 1961), by Act No. 38 (1969).


Regulations have been issued for amateur radio service and personnel (No. 600, 1969) and for the census (No. 16, 1970).

Jamaican membership in the Caribbean Development Bank and in the Inter-American Development Bank has been formalized by Act. No. 43 (1969) and Act. No. 44 (1969), respectively.

Legislation considered by the Government includes the law to regulate real estate business which shall establish a registration fee, provides for the removal of undesirables from among the brokers, and the requirement that clients' accounts be kept apart from those belonging to brokers. A new law regulating fishing is being drafted, and amendments to the Cooperative Societies law planned in view of the importance of the cooperative movement to the Jamaican economy.

Early in March, 1970, three important conferences took place in Kingston: the Caribbean Bar Association Conference, the Canadian Bar Association Conference and the Caribbean-Canadian Conference. Topics discussed included legal education, law reform and law revision in the area. However, the most pressing item concerned the Caribbean Court
of Appeal. A West Indian Court of Appeals functioned starting in 1920, but disappeared with the liquidation of the West Indies Federation. Even though the question of a new court is tied in with the continuance of the Privy Council, it is being suggested that an appeal from the Caribbean court to the Privy Council may be a useful solution.

MEXICO

By a presidential decree two articles of the federal Constitution have been amended. One amendment (D.O. December 26, 1969) affects Mexican nationality as regulated in Art. 30 which now grants nationality to persons born abroad provided they are born to Mexican parents or have a Mexican national as father or mother. The other amendment (D.O. December 22, 1969) lowers the age requirement for citizenship (enjoyment of the right to vote or be elected, to engage in political activities and to serve in the Armed Forces) from 21 to 18 years (Art. 34). This last change prompted adjustments in a number of laws. In the federal Civil Code provisions tied to the 21 year rule have been changed to 18 years (D.O. January 28, 1970) in regard to parental consent for marriage (Art. 149) and in regard to nullity of marriage in the context of Art. 237. The action asserting rights based on filiation accrues to the heirs (Art. 348) if the child died before reaching 22 years (instead of 25) or became deranged before reaching such age. Emancipation due to marriage has been limited to persons 18 years of age (Art. 641), with a number of additional articles adjusted to this change (Arts. 438, 443, 451, 624). An emancipated minor administers freely his assets, except interests in land and judicial matters (Art. 643). As a consequence, Art. 938 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the Federal District and Territories also was amended (D.O. January 28, 1970). Further corresponding adjustments have been made in the Commercial Code by abrogating Arts. 6, 7, and para. VIII of Art. 21.

Some aspects of recognition of illegitimate parenthood and adoption, regulated in the federal Civil Code, have been amended by another decree (D.O. January 17, 1970). The appearance before the registrar of civil status of either or both parents of an illegitimate child amounts to recognition on the part of such parent (Art. 77); a subsequent recognition must be made in a particular act (Art. 79). In case the illegitimate child is of age, its express consent to recognition is required (Art. 79). Recognition by a minor is voidable within four years provided there was error or fraud (Art. 363); the Ministerio Público will intervene. The age required of a single person to adopt was lowered from 30 to 25 years;
the adopted person may be of age, provided there is an age difference of at least 16 years. In addition to showing advantage to the adopted, the adoptor must prove sufficient means as well as good reputation (Art. 390). A married couple may adopt provided both spouses agree to consider the adopted person as their child; it suffices that one spouse meets the age requirement, but the age difference must exist in regard to both (Art. 391). Related changes took place in Arts. 395, 397, 398, 403, 405, and 406 of the Civil Code. Corresponding changes have also been made in the Code of Civil Procedure for the Federal District and Territories by decree (D.O. January 17, 1970), affecting Arts. 159, 923, 924, and 925.

The ground to be excused from guardianship contained in Art. 511/VIII of the federal Civil Code, applicable previously only to women, has been amended (D.O. January 17, 1970). Now it refers to "persons who because of their inexperience in dealings (negocios) or for a serious reason" are unable to perform such duty, thus eliminating the reason of ignorance (falta de ilustración) as well as "timidity."

A decree (D.O. January 27, 1970) amended the third title of Book One of the Commercial Code (Arts. 51 to 74), dealing with commercial agents (corredores), i.e., persons who intervene in commercial acts, are vested with public faith (jefe pública) and are qualified to be experts in matters of commerce (Art. 51).

Art. 18 of the General Law of National Assets [reported in 1 (2) Lawyer of the Americas 54, 1969] was amended by decree (D.O. December 26, 1969) extending the territorial sea to 12 maritime miles (22.224 km.) from the low water mark, with additional provisions concerning bays. It appears that the decree determining territorial waters within the Gulf of California (D.O. August 30, 1968) is not affected.


A number of regulations have been issued for the federal territory of Baja California Sur, dealing — among others — with the public property register, traffic and police (D.O. February 28, 1970), building codes as well as subdivision of land (D.O. February 27, 1970).

Congress has adopted a new federal labor law; it will be reported in the forthcoming issue of the Lawyer of the Americas.
NETHERLANDS WEST INDIES

Late in January, 1970, a conference attended by representatives of the governments of Holland, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles took place in Curacao. It was emphasized that complete independence for Surinam was not an issue at this time, but it was agreed, however, that a number of common problems would be discussed including a gradual increase of self-government as well as matters of social and economic development. In the near future discussions will be held to intensify the participation of the Netherlands’ Caribbean areas in international relations by granting them the right to enter into conventions subject to approval by their respective parliaments and to the Crown’s ratification. Furthermore, greater participation of West Indians in the defense forces, the diplomatic service, and in international conferences, particularly those held in the Western Hemisphere, seems desirable. Finally, the establishment of a Surinam and Netherlands Antilles citizenship will be considered.

NICARAGUA

The new Organic Law of the National Bank was adopted (Law No. 1.676, March 7, 1970). The Bank may accept loans from foreign firms subject to the approval of the Nicaraguan Central Bank. On the other hand, the Bank may not extend loans in foreign currency. The state guarantees its operations.

The administration has approved (March 16, 1970) a regulation dealing with mortgage certificates (cédulas hipotecarias) issued by the Housing Bank. These certificates will be marketed through saving and loan associations or other licensed institutions.

PANAMA

The Codification Commission is continuing its work on the Código Judicial, particularly the section dealing with criminal proceedings.

The Government is preparing a new law regulating civil service which presently is dealt with by a number of decrees, among them Decree No. 137 (1969), modifying to some extent Law No. 4 (1961) and Decree No. 7 (1962). A law to introduce unemployment insurance also is under consideration.

The National Commission to Reform Law Eight of 1954, i.e., the law regulating municipal governments, has completed its draft which includes recommendations adopted by the National Municipal Congress.
The Panamanian Chamber of Builders submitted to the Government a draft law dealing with horizontal property, patterned mainly after a similar law enacted in El Salvador in 1968. Similarly, the Syndicate of Industrialists urged the adoption of a law establishing industrial incentives.

PARAGUAY

A number of significant bills await legislative action; among them a rural code, tax on personal income, and national security measures. An arrangement between the Government and Adela also awaits approval.

PERU

Two recent enactments have attracted particular attention: Decree Law No. 18.075 (1969) dealing with the freedom of the press and Decree Law No. 18.060 (1969) reorganizing the judiciary.

In order to "assure morality in all areas of national life and establish the principle of authority, respect for the law and the rule of law" the Revolutionary Government decreed a reorganization of the judicial power, starting with the Supreme Court for which a new bench was appointed (Decree Law No. 18.061, 1969). The Supreme Court will be divided into three departments (civil, criminal and administrative) and vested with additional powers (Art. 5). A National Council of Justice was created composed of representatives of the executive and legislative branches of the government as well as representatives of the Bar and "one for each of the academic programs in law of the oldest national universities" (Art. 7). The Council elects all judges except justices of the peace (Art. 9).

Starting from the proposition that freedom of press creates responsibilities, that the press shall inform the public honestly in order to shape a real national conscience and that a statute inspired by the full exercise of the freedom of expression in harmony with common good and social peace and solidarity was needed, the press law repeated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press within limitations imposed by law (Art. 1). Truth and morals, the security of the state and the national defense, as well as the guarantee of privacy and personal and family honor were also cited as a basis for the promulgation of the law (Art. 2). Under the law preventive censorship is prohibited (Art. 3); enterprises publishing periodicals may be owned only by Peruvians by birth or by legal entities established in Peru and there domiciled, with shareholders and directors Peruvians by birth and domiciled in Peru (Art. 10).
Peruvians and the above legal entities must also be the owners of the capital (Art. 11). Publishing enterprises may not engage in other activities except publishing technical, scientific or professional periodicals (Art. 14). Every periodical must have a director who manages the publication and is responsible for its contents (Art. 18). Any legal or natural person affected by any information published has the right to have a clarification or rectification (Art. 21) to be published in the next issue of the periodical without any comment of the publisher (Arts. 22, 23). In case of conflicts regarding such demand, the court will decide the issue within 48 hours (Art. 35). The law also contains numerous criminal sanctions, among them one dealing with libel. The director or the author is responsible for "ascribing to a natural or legal person an act, a quality, or a behavior which affects its honor or reputation" and will be punished by imprisonment for at least four months and a fine; if the libel is addressed to a public authority, the penalties are increased, unless the director or author prove fully the veracity of the allegations (Arts. 27c). Punishable also is the publication of "doctored" documents (Art. 27f); of confidential public documents (Art. 27g); of unnecessary sexual details (Art. 27h) and of defenses (apologia) of crimes and their perpetrators (Art. 27i). The Government may, by decree, prohibit the importation of foreign publications which impair the prestige of state authority or of national institutions and the economy (Art. 32). Within 180 days foreigners or Peruvians domiciled abroad must divest themselves of interests in publishing enterprises by transferring their interests to Peruvians by birth or to domestic legal entities, preferrably to syndicates or cooperatives formed by employees of such publishing enterprises (Art. 34).

A ministerial resolution regulates youth halls (No. 000195/69).

Decree Law No. 17.998 (1969) abrogated exceptions against deportation of undesirable aliens in favor of those domiciled in Peru, their spouses and widows.

The Criminal Code was amended by Decree Law No. 18.140 (1970) regarding sexual crimes (Art. 199).

In the area of natural resources, agrarian reform still dominates. Supreme Decree (No. 240-69-AP, 1969) regulates agrarian cooperatives, communities and centers; another supreme decree, No. 243-69-AP, 1969, regulates evaluations of the benefits accruing to land and the burdens on land under agrarian reform. A Decree Law No. 18.003 (1969) amending the basic agrarian reform law No. 17.716, in regard to subdivisions and additional matters was implemented by Supreme Decree.
No. 269-69-AP (1969); the internal organization of farm communities was regulated by Supreme Decree No. 37-70-A (1970).

In mining, an agreement dated December 20, 1969, concluded between the Government and the Southern Peru Copper Corporation appeared as información oficial dated December 20, 1969. In regard to water resources the basic water law No. 17.752 (1969) was implemented by an extensive regulation (Supreme Decree No. 261-69-AP, 1969); mineral waters are regulated by Supreme Decree No. 275-69-AP (1969); subterraneous water courses by Supreme Decree No. 274-69-AP (1969) and No. 42-70-AP (1970). Irrigation was regulated by Supreme Decree No. 41-70-A (1970), in a particular area in cooperation with the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Resolución Suprema No. 38-70-A, 1970).

In maritime transport the establishment of the Empresa Nacional de Puertos (ENAPU) should be noted. Decree Law No. 18.027 (1969) and Supreme Decree No. 017-69-TC (1969) deal with domestic maritime enterprises. Such enterprises must be owned by Peruvian nationals domiciled in Peru; or in cases of partnerships the control must be in the hands of such a person; if operated by a corporation, 75% of the capital as well as of the directorial and managerial personnel must be Peruvian (Art. 4).

Telecommunications are entrusted to the Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (ENTEL) (Decree Law No. 17.881, 1969).


A separate Ministry of Fisheries has been established by Decree Law No. 18.026 (1969) and implemented by Decree Law No. 18.121 (1970); the functioning of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication is regulated by Supreme Decree No. 018-69-TC (1969).


TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The continuing vel non of the jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is still under discussion. In this context it has been
found that local decisions have been upheld in all the 13 civil and 20 criminal cases submitted to the Council since independence.

The Central Bank imposed restrictions on credits to non-resident individuals and foreign controlled companies.

The Government is preparing a new divorce law designed to change two particularly antiquated provisions of the present law: divorce grounds and jurisdiction. While the present law allows divorce only on the ground of adultery, the new law shall introduce cruelty, insanity, desertion and extended, mutually agreed upon separation of the spouses. In regard to jurisdiction, the present rule giving jurisdiction to the court of husband's domicile may be abandoned in favor of a more flexible rule.

A number of bills are being studied, among them the settlement of industrial disputes, highways, tenure of land by nonresidents, and exchange controls. A bill to preserve and enhance marine areas shall enable the Minister of Agriculture to protect the flora and fauna of marine areas, particularly within the coral reef.

The Slum Clearance and Housing Provisions (1959) was extended through 1973 in order to complete the program.

A new income tax convention was signed on January 12, 1970, with the United States.

A Cabinet appointed committee is considering legislation to provide land for building sites through leases and for their extensions up to 100 years. It was found that in many instances such leases have run out and tenants with usable buildings have been evicted. In order to prevent this the Committee is studying the advisability of legislation which would prevent termination of such leases of 25 years or less except for specified reasons; that such leases would be extended by law, but never beyond 100 years; that rents may be assessed at the end of the term, and that premiums for the grant or extension of such leases be made criminal offenses.

In late April, the Parliament passed a law which, among other things, extends the scope of the "flogging law". The law also provides for arrest without warrant and detention without charge for suspected subversion.

UNITED STATES

The President has signed into law two significant enactments of general interest: the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act (1969,
83 Stat. 742) and the National Environmental Policy Act (1969, 83 Stat. 852), the latter with the purpose to "declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological system and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality."

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 805) established the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Sec. 231) to conduct financing operations on a self-sustaining basis, to utilize private credit and investment institutions, to broaden private participation, to conduct insurance operations, to utilize the resources and skills of small business, to encourage and support only those private investments in less developed friendly countries, consider in its operations the perceptiveness on the part of foreign governments to private enterprise, foreign and domestic, to foster private initiative and discourage monopolistic practices, to further balance-of-payments objectives of the United States and to cooperate with as well as advise and assist interested governmental agencies. The Act deals in detail with investment insurance, guarantees and direct investments (Sec. 234 to 239). Furthermore, an Inter-American Social Development Institute was created to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding, to support self-help efforts designed to enlarge the opportunities for individual development, to stimulate and assist participation of the people in the development process, and to encourage the establishment and growth of democratic institutions, private and governmental, appropriate to the requirements of the individual sovereign nations of this Hemisphere (Sec. 401).

The Export Administration Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 841) states the basic policy in regard to exports in the following main points: the United States both encourages trade with all countries with which it has diplomatic or trading relations, except where national interest should prevent it, and restricts the export of goods and technology whenever it might increase the military potential of other nations to the detriment of the nation; exports controls are to be used to the extent necessary to protect domestic economy, to further foreign policy goals and to comply with international obligations taking into consideration national security. Such controls should be formulated, whenever possible, in cooperation with other nations so that unified trade control policies may be observed. Generally, the economic resources shall be used to further growth and
stability of the nation's economy as well as further its national security and foreign policy objectives. Consequently, the United States opposes restrictive trade practices or boycotts by foreign countries against other countries friendly to the United States and will discourage domestic business to participate in such actions (Sec. 3).

A Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish-Speaking People was established by public law No. 91-181 (1969, 83 Stat. 838) to assure that federal programs are reaching them, provide the assistance they need, as well as to seek out new programs that may be necessary to handle problems that are unique to such persons.

A Commission on Population Growth and the American Future was established by public law No. 91-213 (1970, 84 Stat. 67) charged with conducting and sponsoring studies and research and to make recommendations to provide for information and education regarding the broad range of problems associated with population growth and their implications.

A number of bills are pending before Congress, among them one proposing a fundamental reform of the welfare system by introducing a minimum income; an act dealing with airport and airways development; with amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 involving the lowering of voting age from 21 to 18 years; with land use policy; with the control of dangerous substances; and with forest timber conservation and management.

Congress has adopted, and the President has signed into law the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1969, designed to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. New provisions deal with the control of sewage from vessels (Sec. 11); of oil discharges from vessels (Sec. 13), including area acid and other water pollutant (Sec. 14). Added are provisions dealing with pollution control in Great Lakes (Sec. 14), with the cooperation of federal agencies in the control of pollution (Sec. 16), as well as an Environmental Quality Improvement Act (Public law No. 91-224, 84 Stat. 91).

URUGUAY

Criminal legislation dealing with socio-economic crimes, e.g., monopolies and usury, have been amended by Decree No. 304 (July 3, 1969), defining such crimes as well as setting penalties.

Strikes in banks prompted a number of governmental measures, among them giving such banks additional authority to cope with the
situation (Decree No. 324, July 15, 1969); imposing military control (Decree No. 354, July 30, 1969), and measures against the Uruguayan Bankers' Association (Resolution No. 884, 1969, August 14, 1969).

A serious housing shortage shall be alleviated by new measures concerning the administration and financing of housing developments (Decree No. 302, July 2, 1969). Price controls are imposed on certain beverages by resolutions No. 738 and 739 (July 15, 1969); a new list of fixed prices for Montevideo was issued by a resolution dated July 21, 1969.

The mining code was supplemented by regulations (Decree No. 388, July 23, 1969).

New tariff duties (10 to 60%) have been imposed on imports of cigarettes and whisky (Decree No. 347, July 29, 1969). Tariff concessions in pursuance of LAFTA agreements are published in Decree No. 340 (September 10, 1969).

Immigration of qualified and trained persons will be facilitated by Decree No. 366 (August 7, 1969); temporary entry of nationals of other American republics was modified by Decree No. 386 (August 15, 1969).

Decree No. 313 (July 9, 1969) prohibits the mentioning of terrorist groups acting in the country by communications media.

The United Nations sponsored Declaration of Human Rights, signed by Uruguay in 1967, was ratified by Congress (Law No. 13.751, 1969); the Congress also approved a commercial agreement with the Soviet Union for equipment and machinery (Law No. 13.764, 1969).


VENEZUELA

Conciliation offices to deal with marital difficulties have been established in Maracaibo by Decree No. 255 (G.O. No. 29, March 3, 1970). This sala de conciliación shall explore the causes of marital difficulties and offer advice; reconcile spouses who consider divorce; suggest to proper authorities measures to improve social and economic conditions of married people and other matters indicated by the Ministry of Justice (Art. 2). Courts may advise parties who initiate separation or divorce proceedings to appear in the sala (Art. 5).

In the field of education, a decree (No. 223, G.O. No. 29, January
12, 1970) established educational communities designed to achieve cooperation between educators, administrators and parents in order to further the aims of education, develop the spirit of cooperation among the educational factions; share responsibilities involved; increase activities in educational institutions and contribute to the cooperation between students and educators (Art. 1). The organization which will take on the form of Societies of Parents, Representatives and Educators will be established in each educational institution (Arts. 2, 5). Students will act through a Student Center (Art. 19). Grading was regulated by Decree No. 250 (D.O. 29.154, February 25, 1970). A new statute for the Universidad de Oriente was issued by the Ministry of Education (D.O. No. 628, 1970).

The rules regulating activities of savings and loan associations were amended by a ministerial decree (G.O. No. 1.367, December 30, 1969).

A department to combat crime has been created in the Ministry of Justice by Decree No. 241 (G.O. No. 29.143, February 12, 1970). The department shall explore personal attitudes and social circumstances contributing to crime and the measures to prevent crime; train competent personnel for such tasks; conduct campaigns of awareness for the public; prepare statistical data and draft laws related to anti-crime policy; consider social preventive measures; and coordinate governmental activities in the field.


A renewed open-door policy for European immigrants is under consideration.

March 5, 1970, the tenth anniversary of the Law of Agrarian Reform (1960), has been proclaimed as the Day of the Farmer. During the past ten years some 160,000 families have received land, partly from expropriated and partly from government owned land at a cost of some ten million dollars to the government. Additional financial help was received from the Instituto Agrario Nacional. Presently some 150,000 additional families are being processed to receive land under the agrarian reform program.

SPECIALY NOTED

The Fifth Meeting of the Drafting Commission for a uniform Latin American Penal Code met in Bogota in March, 1970. Previous meetings have been held in Santiago, Mexico, Lima and Caracas.