

considered separately. In Latin America, the nation is still the largest effective unit of research and study in law and related social sciences."

The authors take us, as visitors, up and down the streets of the Inter-American community, describing the town council, the police and fire departments, and the P.T.A. They tell us a good deal about where the residents came from and how they think about things and why. This is history and sociology rather than law, but it is first-rate history and sociology, the best part of the book. It is penetrating and revealing and sometimes expressed in terms that Latin Americans ordinarily use only with each other, and most over-timorous North Americans are afraid to use at all. The authors tell us how the family in one house orders its relationships with the families in other houses. They let us look at the outsides of the houses and open the doors of one or two of them to let us see the general construction (e.g., "Techniques of Judicial Decision"). But when we are ready to go in and sit down for the promised "introduction" to how the families themselves *live*, they say that each family is so different from the others that there is not much point in studying any one as a sample of the whole.

There is much that is valid in this view. But the authors themselves have said: "In the United States there is a consciousness of underlying identity in law despite the existence of fifty differing bodies of private law. In the Hispanic-American countries too, a common background of law-language, legal concepts, and legal history, justifies a unified broad approach" (p. xii).

Professors de Vries and Rodríguez-Novás have given us an excellent discussion of Latin American legal history, sociology, public international law, and a little bit of constitutional law and judicial procedure. Perhaps we should urge them next to turn the same skill and insight specifically to the field of Latin American private law. Some of us sense the same "consciousness of underlying identity" there also and could want nobody better to analyze it for us and for our students.

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Diplomatic Asylum. Legal Norms and Political Reality in Latin American Relations. By C. NEALE RONNING. The Hague, 1965. Martinus Nijhoff. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 242. Paper.

The question of diplomatic asylum, although from some points of view rather technical, is nevertheless on occasion a significant one for

international law and relations, especially in an era of political instability such as the present. As the title of this solid and definitive study suggests, the problem has been important in Latin America for quite evident reasons.

The author first examines the evidence as to whether or not the practice of granting asylum is based on generally recognized *legal* right and obligation and concludes that this is not the case, despite the existence of several Latin American multilateral treaties on the subject. Beyond this problem is the greater difficulty of determining whether the refugee is a *political* offender against the territorial state from which asylum is sought and thus entitled to protection. Although several Latin American conventions provide that the state granting asylum shall make this determination, the author notes that in the leading case on this point, the *Colombian-Peruvian Asylum Case*, the International Court of Justice found that there was no customary rule of law to this effect. The author concurs with the Court on the basis of his own research, based on an exhaustive examination of United States and Latin American documentary materials, although he notes that the institution of asylum is in fact widely respected.

One must agree with Professor Ronning that given the possibility or even probability of political violence or terrorism in Latin America at the present time, it would seem highly desirable that the territorial state be able to protect itself against the abuse of a practice which may nonetheless, on occasion, be useful. Thus the Court's decision is not to be deplored (several Latin American jurists were most unhappy about it).

This is a well-written work of impressive scholarship and a most useful addition to the literature.

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Accelerating Development. The Necessity and the Means. By LAUCHLIN CURRIE. New York, 1966. McGraw-Hill Book Company. McGraw-Hill Series in International Development. Index. Pp. xiv, 255. \$7.50.

Dr. Currie is deeply concerned with the economically underdeveloped peoples and countries of all the world, but emphasis in this volume is restricted mainly to the major nations of Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. In fact, the author's primary interest is Colombia, where he has resided for nearly twenty years and of which he became a citizen in 1958.