

## THE LATIN AMERICAN PLAN OF PAX ROMANA - IMCS

1957- 1958

### Bases of the Work

The Latin American Federations of Pax Romana reaffirm the importance of Catholic students becoming aware of their responsibility as Christians within the University community. In order to assure these responsibilities and at the same time avoid the formation of closed and exclusive groups, they must collaborate with all those students, who, whatever their beliefs, are earnestly working for the common good. In order to bring about the ideal University, as defined by the World Congress of Pax Romana in Canada, the students' activities must aim at promoting a real University Community which groups in one human family, students and professors. It is the task of our Federations to help to make the University community an instrument which will ensure the development of the human personality. In order to achieve this development a positive and constructive neutrality within the University must be guaranteed.

The delegates of the Latin American University Federations, who met in San Salvador, July 23-27, 1957, drew up plans for the second stage of the Latin American Plan of Pax Romana IMCS. This second stage is concerned with orientating activities:

- (i) In the University milieu.
- (ii) In the University Federations.
- (iii) On the international level.

### (i) ACTIVITIES IN THE UNIVERSITY MILIEU

#### (A) Vocation and Life of the University Student

The Catholic University Federations considering:

1. The inadequate preparation of the High School graduate due to poor education at this level in Latin America.
2. The lack of a University vocation among the students.
3. The apathy and indifference of the student body towards the community life of the University.

Resolved:

1. To collaborate closely with the National Authorities and UNESCO on the programmes for the improvement of High School Education in Latin America.
2. To make an enquiry into the teaching in the Catholic High Schools. The results of this investigation will be presented to CELAM, (Latin American Episcopal Council) for their use.
3. That each Federation should organize a permanent service which will help young students during the transition from High School to University. To implement this service the Federations were recommended to use the manual "La Incorporacion del Estudiante en la Vida de la Universidad" (Regional Meeting II, Lima 1956).

(B) Denaturalization of the University

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The lack of autonomy and academic freedom in the Latin American Universities,
2. The crisis among University staff and University administrators,
3. The separation of the University from society in the Latin American countries,

Resolved:

1. To contribute to the improvement of the University in Latin America, by identifying themselves with and defending the essence and end of the Institution of the University, as was defined during the World Congress of Pax Romana held in Canada.
2. To entrust to the Juventud Universitaria Católica of Argentina and the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS, the publication and distribution of "Mision de la Universidad" (Minutes of the XXIIInd World Congress of Pax Romana in Canada 1952).
3. To bring to the attention of educational authorities, the student body, and the general public, the difficult situation which faces the University in all the Latin American countries, and to suggest concrete ways of overcoming this situation.

(C) University Reform

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. That, in Latin America, as an answer to the problems of the University of today, a movement called "Reforma Universitaria", is being advocated and started by the students of Argentina and Mexico,

Resolved:

1. To make the Federations JUC and AUDAC of Argentina, responsible for an enquiry into the characteristics of the "Reform" in the different Latin American countries. The results of this investigation will be published in a booklet to be distributed throughout the whole continent.
2. The Catholic University Federations, on the basis of the booklet mentioned above, will study and define their position in relation to Latin American University Reform.

(D) Communism

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The existence of organized communist activity in the Latin American University milieu; and
2. The growing number of followers of communist and para-communist organizations among the youth in Latin American Universities,

Resolved:

1. To make the Federation JUCA of Guatemala, responsible for an international enquiry into the work of the Communists in the Latin American University milieu.
2. Information will be provided by JUCA of Guatemala, and the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS, about the activities in Latin America of para-communist organizations---especially IUS (International Union of Students), WFDY (World Federation of Democratic Youth), WPC (World Peace Council), WFSW (The World Federation of Scientific Workers), FISE (The World Federation of Teachers Union), and WCD (The World Congress of Doctors).

(E) Student Government

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The existence of partisan politics within the National Unions in Latin America,
2. The lack of social responsibility among the National Unions of Students, who sometimes promote political objectives, rather than seek solutions to the needs of the student community,
3. The lack of welfare services for students,

Resolved:

1. To entrust to the Federation SEEDAC of Paraguay, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS, the publication of a booklet called "Bases y Principios de la Representacion Estudiantil", which will be distributed throughout the whole continent.
2. To urge the Catholic students very strongly to be active in the National Unions of Students. Such activity must be directed to the common good of all the students, without discrimination. Special attention must be given to provide or improve welfare services for the students.
3. To entrust to the Corporacion de Estudiantes Mexicanos (CEM), the establishment of a Documentation and Information Centre, on the National Unions of Students, and the activities of the International Neutral Organizations working in Latin America.

The function of this Information and Documentation Centre would be:

- (a) To obtain regular information on the activities of the different National Unions of Students in Latin America, so as to foster contact with the Catholic University Federations.
- (b) To keep a file of the principal leaders of the Latin American National Unions of Students.
- (c) To organize International Formation Seminars for Catholic leaders working in the National Student Unions. Leaders with a democratic tendency would be able to participate in these Seminars.

- (d) To maintain a permanent information service on the activities of International Neutral Organizations working in Latin America.

(ii) ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY FEDERATIONS

(A) Formation of Leaders

The Catholic University Federations recommend the need:

1. To intensify activities on both the local and national level, directed towards the formation of University Catholic leaders who will be aware of the urgent problems facing Latin American youth.
2. To entrust to the Accion Catolica Universitaria Salvadorena (ACUS), the publication of the booklet "Formacion de Dirigentes", to be used for leadership training in the Federations.
3. To have the General Secretary of Pax Romana IMCS publish periodically, booklets in Spanish, which will contribute effectively to the formation of leaders in the continent.

(B) Social and Civic Formation

The Catholic University Federations recommend:

1. The necessity of giving the Catholic students a sound civic formation, based on Christian principles and orientated towards the civic and political problems peculiar to Latin America.
2. To entrust to the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS the publication of a booklet on "Formacion Civica", containing the main texts of the 1957 Formation Seminar.
3. The close collaboration on the national level between the Catholic University Federations and the corresponding JOC (Juventud Obrera Catolica) groups, for the solution of the problems of illiteracy, living conditions, low salaries, moral corruption, and social class distinctions which exist in the Latin American towns.

(C) Collaboration Between University and Professional People

The Catholic University Federations considering:

1. The lack of real Catholic professional movements which could coordinate the work of the young Catholic graduates and which might greatly help to improve the social-economic situation in Latin America,

Resolved:

1. To ask Pax Romana ICMICA to arrange for a Latin American Secretary for its work. The Secretary, doing field-work, would try to organize the associations of young Catholic professionals in the different countries in Latin America, as did Rudi Salat and Edward Kirchner some years ago when they helped organize the Catholic student Federations.

2. To authorize the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS to request funds for the improvement of the work of the Young Graduate Centres already established in Quito and Valparaiso.

(D) Chaplaincies and Apostolic Techniques

The Catholic University Federations resolved:

1. To continue, in a permanent manner, during the regional meetings, an orderly exchange of apostolic experiences to be used in the University milieu.
2. To carry out an investigation on the situation of the Chaplaincies of the University Federations in Latin America. The results of the investigation will be presented by the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS to CELAM (Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano) and to the Secretariat of State of the Vatican.

(iii) ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

(A) International Education

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. That the grants given to Latin American leaders by Pax Romana IMCS, under the system of "study tour travel grants", have contributed considerably to the progress of the regional work and the formation of international leaders.
2. The enormous importance of International Education for the Latin American University leaders.
3. That it is financially impossible for the Latin American Catholic University Federations to pay travelling expenses for international trips for their leaders.

Resolved:

1. To ask the General Secretariat to continue requesting funds to assure the presence of Latin American leaders at the meetings of Pax Romana IMCS, and at the same time to allow these leaders to get an "on the spot" knowledge of the work of the international organizations and the student situation in North America and Europe.
2. To urge the Federations to help the Secretariat to choose the right persons for such grants. Candidates must be able to help the development of their Federations on their return.

(B) International Information

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The magnificent results achieved by the BIDI (Latin American Bulletin), in University regional work in Latin America.
2. The great importance of the BIDI for the University Catholic Federations, as a printed organ in Spanish which is in direct contact with the leaders.

Resolved:

1. To ask the General Secretariat of Pax Romana IMCS to try to ensure the publication of the BIDI for a further period of eighteen months. In the meantime, an investigation will be made among the Latin American Federations of Pax Romana to see in what way the Federations can contribute in order to pay for part or all the cost of the publication of the BIDI.
2. To entrust to the Federation of SEEDAC of Paraguay and the directors of the BIDI, Messrs. Fracchia and Gatti, the continued editing of the BIDI, until such a time as new circumstances cause the General Secretariat to change the seat.
3. The BIDI must put at the disposal of our Federations, those studies, news items, and activities necessary for coordinated work among Catholic Federations on the University problems in Latin America. This implies the formation of leaders and collaboration with other University religious and neutral organizations.

(C) World Integration of Latin America

The Catholic University Federations considering:

1. The importance of Latin American regional work, and its integration into the worldwide activities of Pax Romana,

Resolved:

1. To entrust the Latin American members of the Directing Committee of Pax Romana IMCS, with a study of the way in which the Latin American regional work can be better integrated into the worldwide University community as presented by Pax Romana. Positive recommendations should be made in this regard, to the Latin American Federations.

(D) Latin American Student Congresses

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The importance of the Latin American Student Congresses,

Resolved:

1. To publish a critical study about Latin American student congresses, beginning with the last meeting of La Plata, Argentina (1957). This study will be distributed throughout Latin America.
2. The Information and Documentation Centre, which is the responsibility of the Corporacion de Estudiantes Mexicanos (CEM), will undertake the coordination and the realization of the above-mentioned study.

(E) Neutral International Organizations

The Catholic University Federations resolved:

1. COSEC - That through the participation of our Federations in their respective National Student Unions, the positive neutral attitude, as fostered by COSEC in the past, can be maintained.

2. WAY To continue the active participation of the Federations in the National Committees of WAY in so far as these favour a dialogue and a fraternal collaboration among the youth groups which are now so far apart.
3. UNESCO To encourage interest in the Formation Seminars of UNESCO in Latin America and in the services which it organizes for youth.
4. WUS That the Federations support, conscientiously, the establishment of WUS in Latin America, and see to it that in the National Committees which are formed, the authentic democratic sections of University opinion are taken into account.

(F) Foreign and Exiled Students

The Catholic University Federations, considering:

1. The presence of exiled and foreign students in most of the Latin American Universities,

Resolved:

1. That each Federation carry out a study of the situation of foreign and exiled students in their country and make this situation known to the Federations interested in it and to the General Secretariat.
2. To maintain permanently, in each of the Federations, a welfare service to help the foreign and exiled students.

(iv) ORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL WORK

The Catholic University Federations decided:

1. Duration of the Plan  
The present Latin American Plan of San Salvador will be put into effect between the years 1957 and 1961.

In view of the need for a complete revision of the Latin American plan in 1961, a request was made that the 1961 World Congress of Pax Romana be held in a South American capital. Should this not be possible, it was decided that an Inter-American Assembly should be held.

2. Revision and Control of the Plan
  - (a) The Latin American commissions at the Interfederal Assemblies of Pax Romana IMCS, will revise the execution of this plan every year. They will send out the recommendations necessary for the best continuation of the work.
  - (b) The Latin American Regional Meetings will check to see which Federations have carried out their responsibilities as undertaken in the plan.

- (c) The general revision of this plan will be undertaken at the Latin American Continental Meeting of 1961.

3. Regional Sub-Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Antilles

- (a) To entrust to the Federations ACJM, and JCFM of Mexico the nomination of an international team which will be able to take charge of the work of the Sub-Secretariat in Mexico.
- (b) Mexico will remain the permanent site of the Sub-Secretariat until the Continental Meeting of 1961.
- (c) The functions of the Sub-Secretariat will be:
  - (i) Information and Documentation Service and translation for the Federations of the zone.
  - (ii) To encourage and coordinate the work of the Federations.
  - (iii) To publicize the ends, plans, and working methods of Pax Romana IMCS in order to spread the true spirit of the international movement throughout the Federations.

4. Regional Meetings

- (a) The Latin American plan will be continued with the same system of Regional Meetings which has proved to be the best way of uniting the efforts of the Federations in their common work.
- (b) The theme of the Regional Meetings should be centered on the common problems of the Federations; care should be taken that such studies do not remain in the realm of ideas, but that realistic suggestions are worked out which can be put into action by our Federations.
- (c) The Regional Meetings should programme the collaboration of the Federations on the (i) regional, (ii) continental and inter-regional, and (iii) world level of Pax Romana IMCS.

5. Coordination

Coordination for the realization of the Latin American plan should be done by the following persons:

- (i) Latin American members and candidates to the Directing Committee of Pax Romana IMCS.
- (ii) The Latin American Assistant Secretary in the General Secretariat, who will work in Fribourg and contact the Latin American Federations.
- (iii) The Director of the Sub-Secretariat in Mexico.
- (iv) The Director of the Latin American Bulletin (BIDI).



On the thirteenth day of July 1957, in San Salvador, El Salvador, we approve this Latin American plan:

Amelia Labastie  
JUC y AUDAC Argentina

Jorge Otero Calderon,  
JUC y JUCF Bolivia

Luis Alberto Gomez De S.,  
JUC y JUCF Brazil

Gloria Maria Bustamante,  
JUCH Honduras (obs.)

Hector Silva Zarate,  
AUC y AUCF Chile

Juan Antonio Muller,  
ACU Cuba

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JUC Costa Rica

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Manuel Fernandez Perez,  
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Jose Rafael Garcia,  
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Clarence Wilcox,  
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