

# New Aide for Latins Has Wide Experience

By R. H. SHACKFORD,  
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. — "Our experience in Puerto Rico shows what human hope can do when it is there and put to work."

So said President Kennedy's new Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs—Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrion, 47. He has been Under Secretary of State in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico since 1953.



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Dr. Morales-Carrion is convinced that among the humble, poor and illiterate of Latin America there is the same hope as in Puerto Rico—and he will try to guide the United States in helping to put it to work.

It is the first time a Puerto Rican has held a high-ranking position in Washington. The appointment is recognition of 2.5 million Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican citizens who are potential bridges with the people of Latin America.

Mr. Morales-Carrion starts his job with many advantages. In addition to his work with the Puerto Rican government, he is a scholar, a teacher and a man with confidence that the Western hemisphere can be converted into a unique community of peoples.

He also knows well both the United States and Latin America—the areas that must find better relationship. He has a master's degree from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. from Columbia in addition to undergraduate work at the University of Puerto Rico. He has taught in the United States, and during the war he worked on a cultural exchange program for the State Department. He is a distinguished historian in the field of hemispheric affairs.

To a UNESCO conference in Denver in 1959, he expressed his philosophy about a Latin American federation.

"Freedom," he said, "is the common denominator of the new world, the heritage that made America a historical entity and a human hope. Many times and in many places

this heritage has been betrayed. Freedom is the most powerful leaven for a new reunion between the United States and Latin America. The United States of Washington, Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt is part and parcel . . . of Latin America's ideals. Whenever it is affirmed, Latin America grows in hope."

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But he is a practical man as well as a philosopher. Asked during a recent interview what the Kennedy administration needed to get a fresh start in Latin America, he replied:

"First, a keener awareness of the strength of democratic spirit in Latin America, which there is in practically every country.

"Secondly, there needs to be a marshaling of democratic forces in Latin America who are anti-Communist, just as democratic forces in Europe took over after World War II and stopped Communist penetration.

"Thirdly, the mounting of a social economic program that would do for Latin America what the Marshall Plan did for Europe. It need not be a Marshall Plan as such, but a program adapted to Latin American needs."

Then, with Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico in mind—the amazingly successful economic development program—Mr. Morales-Carrion said:

"Our experience in Puerto Rico shows what human hope can do when it is there and put to work—seeing the possibility that no matter how adverse conditions are, if you have hope and if you have energy and if you have a basic belief in freedom, you can improve conditions, especially those of the humbler elements of society."

Mr. Morales-Carrion believes that, if the United States finds a way of instilling hope among the downtrodden of Latin America—the peasants, the Indians, the campesinos—it will have found the way to combat Castroism, communism or any other extremism.

From New York World Telegram.  
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## Editorial

### Dr. Morales-Carrion

President Kennedy's selection of an outstanding Puerto Rican political leader and educator as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs is to be commended on many counts.

The choice of Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrion comes at a time when long-range relationships rather than crash programs are needed. Dr. Morales-Carrion has been intimately associated with Gov. Munoz Marin in Puerto Rico's Operation Bootstrap, an extraordinarily successful "help yourself" project.

This will be the first time a Puerto Rican has held a high official post in Washington, although Dr. Morales-Carrion did work for the State Department in the early days of its cultural exchange program. This is an experiment. But if our Puerto Rican citizens can help us create a bridge to our Latin American neighbors, it will be worth a great deal in promoting a united hemisphere.

Glad to see this

*H. Gutierrez*