At Swarthmore Conference

South American Economics Discussed

Ralph Earle '54 and Jeff Lut-

tiger '53 represented MIT at a

conference on Democracy and Development in Latin America during the week of February 15-27.

Over 120 delegates from United

States colleges attended the conference, which took place at Swarthmore College in Swarth-

more, Pennsylvania. After registration Friday after-

noon, the delegates heard an

address by the Honorable Charles

Bowles, President Kennedy's spe-

cial advisor on Africa, Asia, and Latin American affairs, and by Senator Claiborne Pell, Lat-

ean Executive Director of the Inter-

American Development Bank.

Bowles first cited the barriers to development in Latin America

countries: an impoverished, passive populace and a reac-

tional, privileged elite. He then

emphasized the need for agricul-

tural reform.

Bowles asserted that economic
development is not enough. In his

opinion, Venezuela, although it

enjoys the highest per capita income in Latin America, suffers

from poor income distribution. "Rising per capita income,"

he concluded, "does not al-

ways give you a better society.

Bowles listed three economic

reforms he considers desirable in

Latin America: a progressive in-

tcome tax, a full to the outflot-

of investment capital, and a care-

ful check on foreign exchange. In

conclusion, he warned, "we cannot buy love, loyalty, or
effective cooperation." All rights

reserved.

Alignment May Shift

Semon de Peira Lessa then

spoke on "Economic Development and Social Change in Latin America." He pointed out that the formation of the Common Market has driven Latin America to increase trade with socialist countries, whose high growth rates make them an attractive market. Semon de Peira Lessa foresaw a possible return of the tradi-
tional Latin American alignment. 

He stated that "both from an economic and politi-

cal point of view, it is useful for the Latin American states to have alternative sources of supply.

After panels and seminars Sat-

day, the conference ended Sun-

day morning with a concluding

panel discussion. To organize the ideas presented at the con-

ference, the panel compared Latin America today with the United States of America. At that
time, they pointed out, the sou-

thern states, dominated by about 300 million people, were attempting to suppress the growing social revo-

lution.

The panel next turned to the fu-

ture. Whatever the immediate

solution might be, they believed, the United States foreign policy for economic sanctions is vital.

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