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It is the policy of the *Journal of Inter-American Studies* to refrain from polemics unless a positive contribution can be made by the use of such material. We believe that the first article in this issue represents such a case.

The proposed changes to the OAS Protocol may affect the whole pattern of hemispheric relationships. A scholarly journal devoted to studies, contemporary as well as historical, in the inter-American field bears a certain obligation to use its resources to ensure wide, thoughtful, and informed discussion of the issues involved before the various American governments take action on these projected reforms. It is not enough for such a journal to limit its pages to scholarly evaluations of results later.

The author has admittedly expressed his own point of view, basing his arguments on wide experience and study in this field. We present his article in this light, as *one* point of view, deliberately designed by the author to arouse the widest possible discussion while these OAS reforms are still open to debate. Other points of view, expressed in equally serious fashion, will be welcomed by the *Journal*.

Ione Stuessy Wright
Editor