

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON LATIN AMERICA IN ISRAEL

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ACADEMIC TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON SUBJECTS RELATED TO LATIN AMERICA developed in Israel not as the result of multi-faceted and premeditated planning but as a consequence of general historical events as well as of local and partial initiatives. In order to understand the present position of research and teaching activities on these subjects, it is indispensable to bear in mind the major developments which occurred in Israel in two main areas: (a) the emergence of academic life and institutions during Israel's 25 years of existence; (b) the development of the diplomatic relations and economic and technological ties between the State of Israel and Latin American countries. Research and academic teaching evolved directly from these two determining factors.

(A) ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

When the State of Israel was established in 1948, its population numbered 650,000 Jews and 156,000 non-Jews. At that time, only two academic institutions existed: the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, in Haifa. The number of students registered in the year 1948–49 was 1,635, of whom 957 studied at the Hebrew University and 678 at the Technion of Haifa. In the first years after the renewal of academic studies (interrupted during the War of Liberation of 1947–48), Israel centered all its efforts in the absorption of immigrants. Up to 1960, no less than 881,000 immigrants had to be provided with work, lodging, educational facilities, etc. In that period, when for some time extreme austerity conditions prevailed, the Israeli economy was geared to the solution of multiple problems of regional development, agricultural expansion, and social integration. Even though the number of academic institutions as well as their size grew constantly, only the vital areas of study were stressed. Latin American studies, in any scientific discipline, were then not included.

At the end of 1960, 13 years after the establishment of the State, already four institutions of higher learning were in existence and included the Bar-Ilan University at Ramat-Gan, and the University of Tel-Aviv. The total number of students then reached 9,275. The first regular course on Latin America was initiated that same year at the Department of Geography of the Hebrew University. Nevertheless, several more years passed before any significant development in this field took place.

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Academic life in Israel was given a special impetus during the period following 1960, and particularly following the Six Days War of 1967. New universities were founded, in Haifa and in Beersheva. The Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, previously dedicated only to research, inaugurated formal courses for graduate students (a Ph.D. program in 1958 and Master's program in 1962). In 1972, the number of students in all these institutions reached 45,365. From 1961 onward, a factor which influenced the expansion of Latin American studies was the growth of immigration from Latin American countries. While during the period 1948–60, only 6,734 immigrants from Latin America settled in Israel, that figure was almost quadrupled during the years 1961–72, when 24,268 immigrants arrived in Israel. Many of the younger immigrants registered for academic studies and they were joined yearly by several hundred Latin American youngsters who came to Israel for the purpose of studying there.

The diversification of academic fields brought about the establishment of special teaching units for Latin American subjects. The Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, established in 1959–60 for research and study for graduate students, initiated in 1966–67, after several years of work, a Section for Latin American studies and the first courses were then started. Specialization in Jewish History and life in Latin America became one of the research subjects offered to MA and PhD candidates. Thus, the Institute of Contemporary Jewry set the foundation for the preparation of young scholars in a field of research hitherto neglected not only in Israel but also in Latin America.

Meanwhile, several Area-Study Departments were established at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Following American Civilization, Russian, Asian, and African Studies, the need was felt for a special Department for Iberian and Latin American Studies. For that purpose, the nucleus of the already existing courses in Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literature was expanded into a multi-disciplinary department. The many young Latin Americans who were searching for familiar fields of cultural interest enhanced this process. The department was formally established in 1968, both for undergraduate and graduate students, and mainly focused on two fields: i.e. literature and linguistics on the one hand and history and social studies on the other. From the beginning, this department drew on the assistance of visiting professors who helped to diversify its curriculum.²

Parallel to the consolidation of these two special units—at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry and at the Department for Iberian and Latin American Studies—other departments offered courses from time to time which related, partly or wholly, to Latin America. Prominent among them were the Departments of Sociology and of International Relations of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Department of Geology of the Faculty of Sciences.

At the University of Tel-Aviv, a Department for Developing Countries was established in 1964–65. Since 1968, this department included regular courses on Latin America which were expanded in 1972 to a unit offering four to five courses, thus permitting specialization in this field. It should be noted that while the Latin Ameri-

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can Department in Jerusalem is incorporated in the Faculty of Humanities, the Department for Developing Countries in Tel-Aviv is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences. This illustrates the difference in emphasis presently laid on different disciplines in these two institutions.

The University at Haifa has not yet initiated a special unit for Latin American Studies. Nevertheless, since 1972, several general courses relating to Latin America have been included in the curriculum of the Political Science and Sociology Departments.

Bar-Ilan University has initiated its Latin American teaching only in 1974 and the special attention paid presently to research on several Latin American subjects indicates that this University also will before long develop its own special Latin American unit.

The youngest institution—the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheva—is presently still in its initial stages of development, and it will take some time for Latin American Studies to figure in its curriculum, as a special unit. However, the first course on Geography of Latin America was started in 1974.

Because of their specific areas of interest, the Technion of Haifa and the Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Rehovot are not giving any courses on Latin America.

In 1973, 62 courses on Latin America were offered in the various universities in Israel. In their majority, they were annual two-hours-weekly courses given according to the following distribution:

TABLE "A"

Number of Courses on Latin America offered at Israeli Universities in 1973

Discipline	Universities					Total
	Jerusalem	Tel-Aviv*	Haifa*	Bar-Ilan	Beersheva	
Sociology & Anthropology	2	—	2	—	—	4
Political Science & International Relations	4	2	1	—†	—	7
Geography	3	1	—	—	—‡	4
Spanish & Portuguese	8	2	2	2	—	14
Literature	12	—	—	—	—	12
History	13	1	—	—†	—	14
Economics	1	2	—	—	—	3
Contemporary Jewery	4	—	—	—	—	4
Total	47	8	5	2	—	62

* Include courses only partly dealing with Latin America.

† In 1974, three courses in History and one in Political Science were offered.

‡ In 1974, one course was offered.

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These 62 courses were taught by 27 Faculty members of all ranks. Three of them were non-Israeli Visiting Professors.

The existence of special units for Latin American studies enabled other departments with parallel disciplinary interests to incorporate some of their courses as part of those departments' curricula. In this way, the number of students who could be attracted to Latin American Studies was considerably increased.

The enlargement of the curricula on Latin America demanded the establishment of convenient documentary and library facilities. The Department of Latin American Studies invested much effort in expanding and completing the appropriate section of the National Library in Jerusalem. Similar steps were taken by the other universities, each of which required more text-books on Latin America. The Institute of Contemporary Jewry, being a graduate and post-graduate department, depended heavily on archival material and newspapers and made a special effort to help the Archives of Israel to acquire relevant documentation from Latin America. In order to prevent duplication and to coordinate the scholarly efforts, the Truman Institute for Research decided to establish a central inter-disciplinary Documentation Center in which the main publications and newspapers will be put at the disposal of the researchers. This activity is at present in its initial stage.

The late advent of teaching of Latin American subjects delayed the introduction of research students in these fields. The first doctoral thesis written in Israel on a Latin American topic was submitted at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1969, and until 1973, only four PhD theses had been completed: one in each of the following fields: Contemporary Jewry, Colonial History, Literature, and Geology. In 1973, six additional theses were already in various stages of completion: one in Modern History, two in Contemporary Jewry and three in Latin American literature. The increase in the number of students interested in Latin America indicates that there will be a growth in the number of PhD theses in the future, but this growth will necessarily be rather slow.

In the universities of Israel, research has, for many years, been dependent on the sporadic and casual interest of Faculty members. When in 1945, Leo Picard, of the Department of Geology of the Hebrew University, was invited to prepare a survey of the Northwestern regions of Argentina, this invitation gave the opportunity for publication of the first Israeli academic research on Latin America.³

Individual interest in some aspects of Latin America by scholars whose main activities were not at all connected with this continent, continued to contribute partly to the volume of Israeli research on Latin America, even in recent years. The main accomplishments in this field, however, can definitely be attributed to those Faculty members whose main scientific interests were linked with Latin America. Determination of subjects for research depended, of course, primarily on their decisions and reflected their specific orientation.

Until the end of 1973, 26 scientific works in Humanities and Social Sciences had been published by the Faculty members of the various universities and 12 more were in press.⁴

A special volume of the *Scripta Hierosolymitana*, dedicated to studies on the history, social sciences, and literature of Latin America, was prepared by the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University and is in press (mid-1974).

Out of the 38 works which have been published or are in process of publication, 8 deal with Economics, 8 with Political Science and International Relations, 6 with Literature, 6 with History, 1 with Sociology, and 9 with Contemporary Jewry. Twelve of these works refer to Latin America as a whole, while the other 26 deal with only 5 Latin American countries.

A wider diversification, as far as disciplines and countries involved are concerned, emerges from the analysis of the 26 on-going individual research and departmental research projects, in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences. Eight of these are being done in Latin American History, 5 in Contemporary Jewry, 4 in Sociology, 3 each in Economics and Geography, 2 in Political Science and 1 in Literature. Four of these refer to Latin America as a whole, while 22 deal with 9 different countries. Even though the biggest countries (Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil) attract most of the attention, some of the studies are related to Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, etc. This survey indicates that many of the Latin American countries have not so far been dealt with in any of the research, while most have not been touched upon so far by many of the disciplines of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Some of the individual research projects were helped by Institutions abroad and, in some rare cases, the researchers even formed part of a team sponsored by an International Organization. A category by itself was formed by a large number of projects initiated not by University Departments but on order by Governmental Agencies. In these cases, mainly in Natural Sciences, Agriculture and Geology, the universities served as a highly qualified reservoir of expertise. Even when these departments were contracted to execute some specific project, this did not become an integral part of the department's activity.

The expansion of research initiated by the various university departments and the increased demand for qualified experts to execute Israel's international cooperation and technical programs cannot but influence the scope of the universities' activities in the field of Latin American research and study.

(B) GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE COMPANIES

Several stages are discernible in the evolution of Israel's interaction with Latin America. These have been determined, to a large extent, by emerging political exigencies as well as by Israel's evolving capabilities, be they political, economic, or technological.

The first large scale and coordinated "charge" on Latin America was initiated by the pre-State Jewish Zionist leadership. The central purpose was to enlist support of Latin American elites and general public for Zionist aspirations concerning the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, and prepare for the eventuality of the Palestine question being brought for crucial deliberations before the international community. This was, primarily, the background for the establishment of the Pro-

Palestine Committees in the mid-1940s in numerous Latin American countries, and of the intensive lobbying and diplomatic activities engaged in by a handful of dedicated representatives of the semigovernmental Jewish Agency.⁵

Characterizing the first phase of Israel-Latin America interaction have been the spurts of activity aimed at securing Latin American support on crucial issues such as the Partition Plan, Israel's admission to the UN, establishment of diplomatic relations, etc. This stage of sporadic diplomatic campaigns followed by long recesses of rather low-keyed activity lasted until the early 1960s. It seems to have been based on an improvised "crisis strategy." At this stage the scope of relations was limited and their content predominantly political, as economic transactions were negligible, and Israeli technical assistance virtually non-existent.

The importance of the first-stage activities in terms of securing political-diplomatic support for Israel is obvious. In addition it facilitated mutual exposure—expressed among other things by publication of distinguished visitors' impressions⁶—and laid the infrastructure for the expansion during the next phase. The creation of a solid network of Israeli diplomatic missions in the continent established permanent presence in Latin America, provided the means for sensing local needs, and enabled further intensification of contacts.

The second stage of Israel-Latin America interaction witnessed significant expansion in the scope and diversity of relations. It started with the advent, in 1961, of Israel's program of technical assistance and cooperation for Latin America, and lasted until 1967.

Historically, the first recipient of Israeli technical assistance was an Asian country (Burma, in 1954). With the Sinai Campaign of 1956 and its aftermath, attention and resources were shifted to the emerging states of Africa. Latin America trailed behind as the last developing area to receive Israeli assistance. The reasons for this belated start may be attributed to the fact that relations with Latin America were existent, firm, and on the whole cordial. It was not until the crisis in Israel-Latin America relations, precipitated by the kidnapping of Adolf Eichmann in 1960, that serious consideration was given to a redefinition of Israel's policy in Latin America.⁷ By then, technical assistance was facilitated by the initial successes and experience accumulated in the other two continents, and apparently enhanced by the new spirit of the Alliance for Progress being launched then in Latin America.

During this period, the number of diplomatic missions increased to include almost all of the Latin American nations. Although trade remained unimportant, a few Israeli firms—e.g. *Tabal Consulting Engineers*, *Vered*—made their debut in the continent. The scope of relations expanded also to include Special Assistance programs under Defence Ministry auspices, alongside cultivation of contacts between Trade Union Federations, and the establishment in Israel of the Center for Labor and Cooperation Studies.

The most recent stage, which extends to the present, gets its impetus mainly by post-1967 developments. Within the realm of technical assistance, there has been a tendency for greater emphasis on integral, multi-faceted rural development projects.

At the same time, technical cooperation has been extended into new fields of scientific activity (e.g. nuclear research, water desalination, arid zones research, etc.).⁸ Work in the area of Youth Movements has been greatly intensified. During this period, the first serious attempt was also made to conduct project evaluations and examine the effectiveness of some Israel technical assistance programs carried out in Latin America (see below).

The volume of trade increases, and the activity of Israeli firms selling know-how, planning, and other services, further expands. Major Israeli firms engaged in production of arms and military communications equipment have embarked upon an active sales policy, aiming also at Latin American markets. This new trend has been largely a product of the rapid growth and development of Israel's defence industries taking place since 1967.

The main "body" of the research and "semi-research" inventory produced by government and public agencies in Israel with reference to Latin America emanates directly from Israel's program of international cooperation with that region. While the dominance of agricultural and cooperative themes in Israel's program of international cooperation is a well established fact, this has been even more pronounced in its program for Latin America. Cumulative and statistical data for 1962–70 shows that of 357 expert assignments to Latin America (and English-speaking Caribbean nations), 229 were in agricultural specialities. Likewise, out of 2,192 Latin American (and Caribbean) students and trainees participating in various training and study programs in Israel during the same period, 1,012 were specializing in agriculture and 472 took labor and cooperation studies, outnumbering by far trainees in other fields.⁹

While the Department for International Cooperation (*MASHAV*) of Israel's Foreign Ministry maintains overall hierarchical and budgetary control over technical assistance programs abroad, actual operations are being carried out by functional Ministries, primarily those of Agriculture and—until recent administrative reshuffling—of Defence. These two, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, account for the bulk of Israel's Cooperation program in Latin America. Within this framework, and since 1965, the Center for International Agricultural Cooperation (CIAC), located in Rehovot, occupies a pivotal position, being the Ministry's specialized professional arm for operating its program of international cooperation.

Even prior to the collapse of diplomatic relations with African countries in late 1973, Latin America was considered Israel's "best" continent as far as its international cooperation program was concerned. In late 1972 and early 1973, it was the continent in which the CIAC had the greatest number of expert assignments in the largest number of countries (totalling 21 if Caribbean English-speaking nations are included). It was also the continent offering the best prospects for significant and fast expansion of Israeli technical assistance activity.

The CIAC classifies its programs into four categories starting from limited-purpose professional advisory operations for advancing a specific crop or agricultural branch, through pilot and experimentation farms, to wider-front rural community development, with integrated rural regional development at the peak of these activi-

ties. It is the Center's policy to emphasize this last type of operations, and of its current 26 operational projects in Latin America, 10 are comprehensive rural development schemes.

Though basically a practitioner of agricultural development, the CIAC has been constantly developing research and planning capabilities. It is the CIAC's recent trend to become much more "research conscious." This is reflected not only in the institutionalization of the Center's current research activity, but also in its policy of branching out into cooperation on a scientific level through the establishment of Arid Zones Research Institutes in Latin America. Preliminary surveys have been conducted and such institutes are projected for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. They are intended to become a major part of CIAC's program in Latin America for some time to come. Following a decision of the Center's directorate, its new research orientation is to be strengthened through tighter cooperation with the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research and with the twin and neighboring Settlement Study Center.

The CIAC has been publishing regularly, either for official, internal or general circulation purposes, miscellaneous reports related to its activities in Latin America. These reports, presently numbering about 50, include feasibility and evaluative studies dealing with subjects ranging from the single processing plant level up to "macro" studies covering entire economic branches (fishing, dairy and beef cattle industries, etc.), or with proposals for integrated rural development schemes. There are reconnaissance studies of and field trip reports on such varied topics as the establishment of Arid Zones Research Institutes, through surveys for locating possible agricultural development projects, and planning proposals for such projects. There are also professional summaries of diverse field operations ranging from guided credit programs in rural areas to pest control campaigns. Although difficult to itemize, all are related to the broad realm of agricultural development, either to the production process itself, or to wider issues of agricultural settlement, credit, marketing, and other infrastructure aspects.

Most of the reports in this general group are conveniently inventoried in catalogues issued periodically by the Center and available upon request.

As can be seen, in some substantive areas, the planning phase of the CIAC work runs somewhat parallel to certain kinds of planning activity of Israeli firms operating on a commercial basis (i.e. *Tabal*).

The growing scale of the Center's program abroad has brought about the initiation and subsequent intensification of related agricultural research, to solve the problems arising in various stages of implementation. What had previously been sporadic and ad hoc activities became, since the budgetary year 1969-70, a regular part of the CIAC annual work programs.

As applied research is aimed at finding the right agro-mechanical solutions or developing seed varieties for crops that are often of national significance for the countries involved, it promoted interest and cooperation with local agricultural Research Institutes in the recipient countries.

To date, most of CIAC's research has been done on plant genetics and field experimentation for development of special strains of vegetable and field crops to fit local climatic and soil conditions. Such experimentation has been carried out in connection with several rural development projects in which the CIAC has been involved, e.g. in the Dominican Republic (*El Sisal*), in Haiti (*Bas-Boen*), El Salvador (*Zapoitán*) and Venezuela (*Maturín*). This sort of applied research usually calls for close cooperation between Israeli experts present on the scene and agricultural research and experimentation institutes in Israel. These are, primarily, the previously mentioned Volcani Institute, the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, and the Neveh-Ya'ar Experimentation and Research Station.

To date, four such studies have been completed and published and five more are in progress and scheduled for publication in 1974. The growth of research activity related to agricultural projects in Israel's program of international cooperation induced the CIAC to publish an annual report compiling research papers. The first of these annual reports appeared in 1970, summarizing activity for 1969–70.¹⁰

Another institute operating in Rehovot, the Settlement Study Center (SSC), working in the field of regional development planning, has been devoting growing attention to Latin America.

The first course on integral planning of rural development was initiated in 1966 at the SSC jointly with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Following a visit to Israel in 1967, and after studying the character and quality of Israeli regional development planning, implementation and instruction, a delegation of the United Nations' Economic and Social Committee entrusted the SSC with the task of organizing a program of research and training on regional development. Subsequently, the UN incorporated the post-graduate course in comprehensive regional development planning given by the Center into its Interregional Program of Training in Comprehensive Regional Development.

Since 1966 and until late 1973, 5 courses of approximately 10 months each were given at the Center and 107 students originating from 34 countries graduated. Twenty-seven of these participants were Latin Americans, representing 10 countries (in addition to several students from English-speaking Caribbean nations).¹¹

The interdisciplinary teaching and research staff of the SSC includes a number of planners and professionals who have been involved in planning, implementation, and evaluation of rural regional development projects, both in Israel (e.g. *LAKISH*, where considerable experience in regional development planning and implementation had been accumulated) and abroad.

The growing Latin American interest in the Center's activities prompted it to start a course in Spanish specifically designed for Latin Americans. Furthermore, contacts were established—either through bilateral arrangements or multilateral auspices (UN, OAS, BID, etc.)—with Latin American academic and research institutions for further expansion of instruction and investigation of regional development problems. Such is the cooperation developed with the Federal University of Ceará (Fortaleza,

Brazil) and with Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES) of Santiago, Chile. Joint research activity is also to start soon with Peru.

The SSC has also been instrumental in promoting the first evaluation studies concerning Israeli assistance projects in Latin America. These studies, three in all, follow criteria developed by the U.S. Agency for International Development.¹²

Israel's Defence Ministry has been yet another agency which initiated several studies relating to its activities in Latin America. During 1962–72, Israel developed an extensive program of cooperation which was directed by a special department of the Ministry of Defence, namely the Department for Cooperation and Foreign Liaison.¹³ Much of this program, termed "Special Assistance," was never truly military. Rather, it constituted civic action programs relating primarily to *NAHAL*-type military-agricultural projects¹⁴ and later, to the establishment and organization of Youth Movements.

For internal follow-up purposes, the abovementioned department arranged, in 1971, for the preparation of four reports relating to its agro-military and youth movement projects in Latin America. These reports were on an academic level and reviewed activities in Bolivia and Ecuador (agricultural-military assistance) as well as in Costa Rica and Panama (organization of youth movements).

Heading Israeli activity in offering planning services to Latin America on a commercial basis—primarily in the field of water resources and agricultural development—was the firm of Tahal Consulting Engineers Limited.¹⁵

Tahal was founded in 1952 with the purpose of functioning as the national water resources planning agency. Fifty-two per cent of the company's shares are owned by the Government of Israel.

In the course of time, Tahal grew to employ a staff of some 900 in Israel, 600 of whom are professional or semi-professional.¹⁶ After accumulating experience and developing high professional expertise through its planning operations in Israel (among them, Israel's National Water Carrier), the Company started selling its planning services to clients abroad.

Since 1959, Tahal operated in Asian and African countries and in 1962 made its appearance in Latin America. The initial factors behind the new marketing orientation were the completion of large planning projects in Israel and the desire to continue utilizing its personnel economically without reducing operations (also accompanied by the political interests implicit in such overseas ventures).

Official Tahal inventory lists include 46 planning studies carried out by the company for Latin American clients (mainly government agencies and a few public banks) during the period 1962–72. The company divides these studies into three groups: (a) water supply and sewerage (7 studies in 1 country); (b) agricultural development, irrigation and drainage projects (26 studies in 11 countries); and (c) water resources development projects (13 studies in 6 countries).¹⁷

The actual inventory of studies concerning Latin America is considerably larger, as Tahal's archives contain some 40 additional studies or clusters of interrelated investigations, which have not been publicly listed. At least some of these are projects

ordered and paid for by Latin American clients. Others are preliminary study proposals that were pigeonholed for various reasons. On the whole, the majority of the unlisted studies fit into the customary categories of hydro-geological surveys, development of water resources for agricultural uses, urban water supply schemes, etc. However, several studies propose national master plans for agricultural development, project-ranking and decision-making methodologies to be used by government ministries and agencies (primarily those handling agricultural settlement and irrigation projects).

Brief mention should be made of research and planning activities engaged in by other Israeli commercial firms having dealings with Latin America. There are a few Israeli companies that have conducted market research and other economic studies in Latin America to serve their commercial interests in the region. Thus, the Marketing Office of El-Al, the national airline, carried out studies in 1968 and 1972–73 on potential air traffic to and from selected South American countries. Israel Aircraft Industries' Marketing Directorate produced in 1970 a study on the potential market for the *Arva* aircraft sales in Latin America for 1972–77, and the company prepared a study concerning the establishment of an aircraft industry in Yucatán, Mexico. However, among the growing number of Israeli firms doing business with Latin America there is a high proportion of companies marketing planning and specialized engineering and other professional services. To date, their activities have been mainly concentrated in the preparation of feasibility studies for diverse economic enterprises, market research surveys concerning export prospects for Latin American products, and detailed designs for a wide range of industrial and agro-industrial plants, irrigated agriculture development schemes, water supply and sewerage, and a few other planning studies. For most of the firms concerned, this type of commercial activity in Latin America is of recent vintage, as the majority of these studies have been produced since 1970.¹⁸

CONCLUDING COMMENT

As becomes evident, the development of Israeli academic and governmental interest in the field of teaching and research concerning Latin America has been a relatively late phenomenon.

There has been no clear connection or detectable influences mutually affecting the orientation of academic institutions and government initiatives in Latin America.

At the intra-university level, individual institutions developed their activities at random, branching into diverse fields and disciplines without stating clear targets or formulating academic policy in regard to Latin American studies. On the inter-university level, no coordination or division of work has been established.

In contrast, governmental activity has been evolving along clear and well defined lines, determined by two major conditioning factors: the availability of Israeli expertise in the field of agriculture and its multiple related areas (water resources development, settlement, credit, and various institutional aspects), and the interest of Latin American countries to draw upon Israeli experience in this extensive field.

Private economic concerns show pattern of diffuse interests exploiting opportunities offered by local market conditions.

The direction and intensity of governmental activity in the region will remain dependent upon the state of relations between Israel and the Latin American nations.

NOTES

1. The Central Bureau of Statistics, *Statistical Abstract of Israel 1973*, No. 24, pp. 126, 644. (Jerusalem, Sept. 1973)
2. Among them, scholars Max Aub, Francisco López Cámara, and Rosario Castellanos, Mexican writer and her country's Ambassador to Israel.
3. Picard, Leo, "La Structure du Nord-Ouest de l'Argentine." *Bulletin de la Societe Geologique de France*, 1949.
4. In Natural Sciences only three studies, on groundwater research, have been carried out, all of them on Governmental Agencies' orders. Similar studies in Agriculture will be referred to below. The data are based on the following sources: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, *A List of Publications in Humanities, Law, Science, and Agriculture, 1946-52*, by Members of the Academic Staff (Jerusalem, 1953); The Hebrew University, *Research Reports for 1963-64, 1965-66, 1967-68, 1969-70*; Bar-Ilan University, *Publications by Faculty Members, 1959-64, Select Bibliography* (Ramat Gan, 1965); *Academic Research 1969 and Academic Research 1974*. Complementary information has been accumulated from questionnaires, filled by the Institutions for the purpose of the authors' survey.
5. For a detailed account of Israel-Latin American relations during this initial stage, see Edward B. Glick, *Latin America and the Palestine Problem* (New York, 1958).
6. See, for instance, Alfonso Francisco Ramírez, *Un viaje a Israel* (México, 1951).
7. For reference to the Eichmann affair as influencing Israel's policy toward Latin America, see Nathaniel Lorch, "Israel-Latin America Relations, 1971" (Hebrew) in *Gesher*, year 17, No. 68-69, 3-4, p. 98. Israel, Dec. 1971.
8. This new type of technical cooperation is best exemplified by the Agreement for Scientific Cooperation signed between Israel and Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) in June 1972.
9. División de Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, *América Latina e Israel*, Sumario de los Programas de Cooperación Internacional en las Américas, pp. 52-53, Jerusalem, 1971.
10. Mendel K. and Bar-Lev M., The Center for International Agricultural Cooperation, *Israel's Research Programmes in Joint Rural Development Projects, 1969-70* (Jerusalem, 1970).
11. See table in: Settlement Study Centre, *Post Graduate Course in Comprehensive Regional Development Planning*, June 7, 1973-April 4, 1974, p. 7 (Rehovot, Israel).
12. They were carried out for the Center by Gideon Naor and Shaul Regev and focused, primarily, on aspects of agricultural development and rural settlement. The first and second reports were published by the Center in October and December, 1970, and dealt with the *Petrolandia* project in Brazil's Nordeste, and the *El Sisal* project in the Dominican Republic. The third report, dealing with Israeli assistance projects in Venezuela, was issued in December, 1971.
13. At the end of 1972, the non-military functions of the veteran Department for Cooperation and Foreign Liaison of the Ministry of Defense, were transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
14. Israel's experience with the *Nahal* units, where military training is combined with settlement and agricultural development, aroused early and keen interest as a pattern for developing "civic action" by Latin American armed forces.

15. This is the special "overseas" branch of the Tahal Water Planning for Israel Limited.
16. Information pamphlet entitled *Tahal Consulting Engineers Limited* (no date, no publisher), p. 8.
17. In the period reviewed, Tahal was making studies for 12 Latin American nations: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The largest number of planning studies were made for Mexico (11), Brazil (10), and Colombia (7). A typical planning study of the first group is "Water Supply and Sewerage to the City of Monterrey, N.L., Mexico." See reference in Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd. *Water Supply and Sewerage Projects, 1962-1972*, p. 3 (Tel-Aviv, Israel) (no date). Representative of the second group is the study entitled "Groundwater Resources Investigation in the Azúa Valley, Dominican Republic." See reference in Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd., *Projects in Water Resources Development, 1962-1972*, p. 4 (Tel-Aviv, no date). The third category includes such studies as "Agricultural Development of the Sudoeste Region, Brazil." See reference in Tahal Consulting Engineers, Ltd., *Qualifications: Agricultural Development Irrigation and Drainage*, p. 6 (Tel-Aviv, no date).
18. "Life" Industrial Planning and Engineering Company, specializing in planning and industrial design services for oil refineries, chemical, and petrochemical plants, has been active in Latin America since 1965. It has been making techno-economic surveys, feasibility studies, and industrial plans for clients in Colombia (1965), Venezuela (1968, 1971, 1973), and Mexico (1969-70). Isrex-Israel General Company started operating in Latin America in 1969. Its ventures include promotion of sales of industrial equipment and know-how. This involved the preparation of several economic feasibility studies and industrial plans for yucca exploitation in Honduras (1972), vegetable oil and citrus packing plants for Ecuador (1973), and joint electronic industries in Brazil and Argentina (1973). *Sherutei Handassa Be-Israel* (Engineering Services of Israel Ltd.) prepared three agricultural and rural development projects for Venezuela in 1971-73, conducted market research for exporting agricultural product of Brazil's Nordeste (1971-72), made a feasibility study for meat production and processing in Venezuela (1973), and prepared a master plan for water supply and sewerage for urban centers in Guiana (started in 1973). Industries Development Corporation (IDC) prepared several detailed economic studies concerning a wide range of exporting industries in Venezuela (1969-73), including a three-volume economic survey of export projects for Venezuelan industry that was given public circulation: *Evaluación de la posición exportadora de la Industria Venezolana*, 1972. This is in addition to planning and market research operations in other Latin American countries. In the area of Irrigation and Agricultural Development Planning, the *SEKER* International Consultants, in cooperation with the Yalon-Balasha Consulting Engineers, have been doing, in 1971-73, a feasibility study and then a detailed design for an irrigated agriculture project (Pirapora) in Brazil, ordered by the Brazilian Ministry of Interior. The study has been published in Brazil. Another commercial concern, the Israeli Institute for Transport Planning and Research, has been involved since 1973 in transport planning work ordered by the Economic Development Ministry of Guiana.