

## PAN AMERICAN PHYSICS

Russ Huson and Leon Lederman

### Introduction

An "Office of Pan American Collaboration" (OPAC) was proposed earlier this year by Leon Lederman at a Latin American symposium in Mexico attended by ten Latin American countries. The goals of this proposed collaboration would be to explore the possibilities of increased cooperation with the United States in the form of providing assistance to groups interested in becoming users of high-energy physics facilities and to provide a stimulus to scientists in any field of physics who would benefit from exposure to advanced technology associated with accelerator building and high-energy laboratories. Implicit in these objectives was the assumption that a strong physics capability is a necessary component in the potential for technological development. At the present time, Latin America has approximately 2000 Ph.D. physicists for a population of 350 million. Based on U. S. statistics (25,000 for 200 million), one might expect 30,000 Latin American physicists.

### Progress

Progress has been made as evidenced by the various meetings and the above-mentioned symposium that took place in Cocoyoc, Mexico, on January 5-7, 1982. This symposium demonstrated that there was a viable Pan American community of high-energy physicists. In addition to the symposium, a fast electronics laboratory has been started at the National University of Mexico, and Mexico is currently collaborating on high-energy physics experiments at Fermilab and Brookhaven National Laboratory. There is also a small collaboration between Mexico and Fermilab on an accelerator project. Fermilab is also collaborating with the University of Honduras on setting up a physics laboratory for small experiments. Back issues of **Physical Review** and **Physical Review Letters** have been sent to the libraries at various Latin American institutions, and we have established a mechanism for assisting Latin American institutions in the purchasing of scientific equipment (Colombia and Peru). Several Latin American theorists have come to Fermilab for short stays, and Fermilab is anxious to receive both physicists and engineers when these visits would benefit the sending institution. Fermilab is presently seeking modest foundation and international agency support to provide help to visiting Latin American Scientists. Meanwhile, discussions are taking place relative to the continuation of the communications via a second Inter-American Symposium in Brazil in July of 1983.

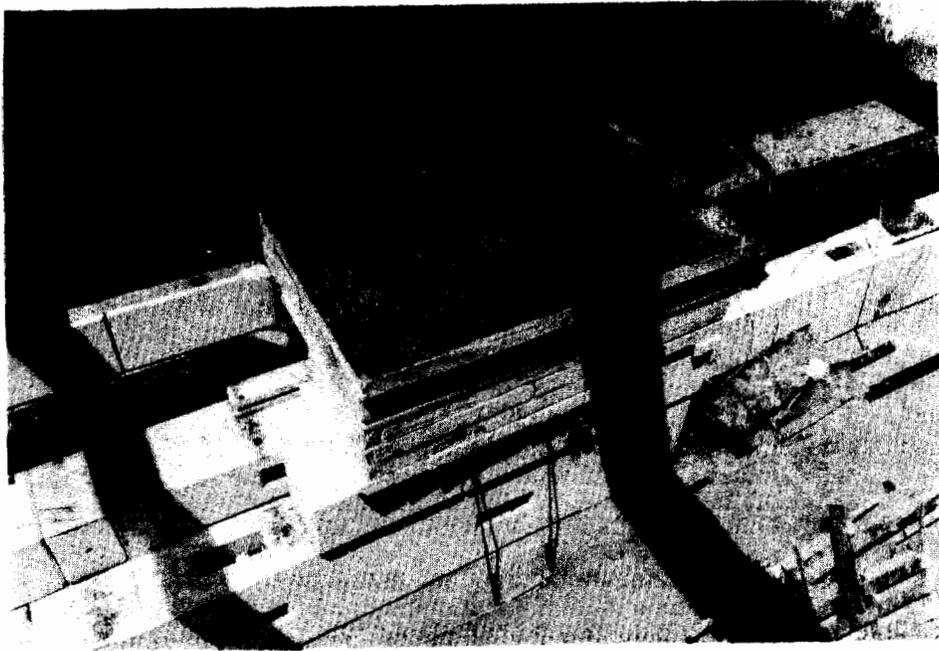
### How to Help

The Director's Office will assist anyone willing to donate good physics textbooks to libraries in Latin America. Additional ways to participate include collaborating on small projects or on high-energy physics experiments with Latin America, giving seminars at Latin American institutes, and sending old but good laboratory equipment that could be used in undergraduate or graduate laboratories. Again, the Director's Office can help with procedures, etc. University users can take sabbaticals or go on lecture tours. If there is interest, contact Leon Lederman.



Latin American theoretical physicists (left to right) William A. Ponce, Director of the Physics Graduate Program at the Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia; Rodrigo Huerta from Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico; and Arnulfo Zepeda, Director of the Physics Graduate Program at Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico.

---



An exposed beam line in the Proton Area.  
(Photograph by Fermilab Photo Unit)