

Argentine leadership role stressed at symposium

By Lori Demo

"We are dealing with two countries that don't communicate," James R. Scobie said Friday during a discussion that ended the two-day symposium on Argentine-U.S. relations in the 60s.

Scobie, professor of history at Indiana University, said the U.S. has little reason to get involved with Argentina economically.

"The predominate concern of the U.S. regarding to Latin American has been, is now, and will be based on security," he said. "This is the underlying principle on which decisions will be made."

Scobie said the only way the U.S. and Argentine will meet may be in the area of Argentine leadership.

John N. Plank, professor of political science at the University of Connecticut, agreed that the role of leadership will be the biggest job for the two countries.

"It is my judgment that the inter-American system is transforming in a way that is so profound it will be inappropriate to refer to it as a system at all," he said.

He said he thinks recently-elected President Juan Peron does not want to see American states attain the leadership role.

Earlier, Peter Smith, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin expressed his idea that Argentina is dependent on other nations, including the U.S.

"But it must be stressed that it is less dependent than many other countries of the

world and less dependent than all of the Latin American countries," he said.

He described Argentina's dependence as based on two dimensions: the spreading out of dependence between capitalism and commerce, and the spreading out of dependent ties among many nations. This allows Argentina to avoid dependency upon one country.

He said the greater the diversity of this dependency, the greater the scope of policy alternatives Peron will have.

"We must not try to second guess Peron and what he will do, but rather try to decide what alternatives for action he has," Smith said. "Perhaps the most obvious choice with regard to dependent ties is that Peron can afford to do nothing."

If Peron does decide to do something, his decision hinges on Argentina's role as internal spokesman for Latin America, his own support at home and the Argentine economy, he said.

"But the greater this diversity of dependence, the less likely the prospect of raising clear-cut mobilization of the people against dependency," he said.

"I don't think Peron will take didactic action against the U.S. He will not stage a revolution and Argentina will remain in this state of diversified dependence."

The two-day symposium was co-sponsored by the UNL Institute for International Studies and the Embassy of the Argentine Republic under the direction of Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, Director of the Institute.



Photo by Mike Theiler

Kings and queens were captured at UNL this weekend at the 23rd annual Midwest Open Chess Tournament. See story, pictures on Page 3.

Amendment would join NU, state colleges

State Sen. David Stahmer, Omaha, said he will ask for a constitutional amendment next year to combine the NU System and the four state colleges, Saturday.

He said the best way to equalize financial support and student opportunities is to have a single system of public higher education.

The change would require a statewide vote because the NU system and the state colleges are established by the state constitution, he said.

Stahmer, a member of the Legislature's Budget Committee, said he proposes creation of a 12-member board of higher education to operate the new system.

Several bills to coordinate campus operations are being studied by legislative committees, but he said he would go beyond these by consolidating the schools.

Equity in higher education won't be achieved by equalizing state college salaries with those at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, (UNO), he said.

State college budgets proposed Friday requested more state funds to raise salaries to the level of those at UNO.

Tuition at UNO is one-third more than at the state colleges, Stahmer said. He said the state already pays two-thirds of the operating costs at the state colleges and only half of the operating costs at UNO.

Minorities march to protest holiday

Despite problems getting a parade permit, the United Minorities and Concerned People's Organization (UMCPO) will march Friday to protest Columbus Day, according to Indian student spokesman Rick Williams.

The group will leave at 1 p.m. from the State Historical Society Museum and march to the Capitol. The permit dispute is over marching on O St., afterwards, Williams said.

He said the purpose of the march is to bring minorities and poor people together and make people aware "we're here to stay." The march is a joint Chicano-Indian student idea, he said.

"It's an absurdity that the government would make a national holiday year after year, when actually this guy didn't discover America. He got lost and was found by the Indian people and fed and helped out by them," he said.

Williams, a UNL junior majoring in integrated studies, said he didn't know how many persons would march. About 50 have been attending UMCPO meetings, he said.

He said Chicano, Indian, low-income white students, UNL faculty members and several persons from the community have attended the meetings.

UMCPO, organized on campus last spring to support the takeover of Wounded Knee, S.D., enables minorities to pool their power to fight problems, he said.



American graffiti at 20th and Q Sts.

Photo by Gail Folda.