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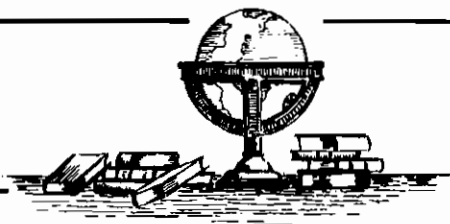
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RESEARCH IN THE MAHAN LIBRARY

THE ARCHIVES OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGES OF THE AMERICAS

by

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Captain Fiske was involved in the planning for the establishment of the First Conference of the Naval War Colleges of the Americas. He was Secretary for the Sixth Conference and served as Permanent Coordinating Secretary from 1969-1971. At present, he is the Head of the Military Strategy Study in the College of Naval Warfare.

As a result of agreement reached at the Second Inter-American Naval Conference in Key West in June 1960, Adm. Arleigh Burke, then Chief of Naval Operations, undertook a series of events designed to further a common and better understanding of the naval profession among the inter-American Navies. That program culminated in what is today a series of seven specialized Conferences, all under the aegis of the Inter-American Naval Conference, attended by all of the Chiefs of Naval Operations of the inter-American Navies. These are: (1) Conferences of Naval Communications Chiefs, (2) Conferences of Naval War College Presidents, (3) Conferences of Directors of Naval Intelligence, (4) Conferences of Naval Academy Superintendents, (5) Conferences of Naval Surgeon Generals, (6) Conferences of Naval Research Chiefs, (7) Conferences of Oceanographers of the Navies.

One of the first of these activities to get underway was the Conference of the Naval War Colleges of the Americas, also

referred to in Latin America as the "Directors Conference." A meeting of college presidents was convened at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 9-11 April 1962. It was followed by another in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 29 July-1 August 1963, and a third in Lima, Peru, 19-23 October 1964. At Lima it was decided that future meetings would be held every other year. Accordingly, the Fourth Conference met in Newport, 4-6 October 1966, and the Fifth Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-12 September 1968. In recent years the delegates voted to hold all even-numbered Conferences in the United States and odd numbered Conferences in other member nations. In keeping with the new schedule, the Seventh Conference is scheduled to take place in Valparaiso, Chile in September of this year.

Currently, membership consists of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela. Observer delegations include Canada, Dominican Republic, the Inter-

American Defense College, and the Pan American Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-613B).

Over the years the Conference has evolved a series of rules relating to parliamentary procedure, membership status, logistic and financial support, voting, provision of escorts, and similar matters. At the Sixth Conference held in Newport, 5-9 October 1970, the Conferees formally adopted a "Preamble to the Rules" which reads in part: ". . . With our efforts we hope to improve the professional competence of our students for assumption of higher responsibilities of naval leadership and also to qualify them in enlightening public opinion on the profound influence of maritime power in the development and security of our countries . . ."

Over the years this Conference series has addressed and reached agreement on such matters as the exchange and translation of course materials and books, the exchange of lecture teams, development and play of an inter-American war game, exchange of video and magnetic tapes and slides, and a general philosophy on the goals and objectives of professional education for naval officers. It is gratifying to realize that the accomplishments in these areas have led to similar series conducted by the other services.

The nature of other business ranges from the propriety of the study of counterinsurgency, standards for selection, admission and grading of officer students, the value of a War College education relative to the future command and promotion potential of the individual officer, development of common tactics and doctrines, and the need for a joint dictionary of military terminology similar to the U.S. Joint Dictionary (JCS Pub. 1).*

At the conclusion of each Conference, a *Record of Proceedings* is

published which contains a list of the delegates in attendance; the agenda and current rules; discussions, either verbatim or abridged; a country-by-country analysis of progress reached on past agreements; a status report of the current activities, plans, and programs of each country; and a summary of the nonplenary and social activities.

At the Fourth Conference (Newport, 1966), the U.S. Naval War College was elected to serve as the Permanent Coordinating Secretariat to maintain records, provide continuity and information during the 2 years between meetings, and to coordinate matters of mutual interest to all members. The archives of the Naval War Colleges of the Americas, which are housed in the Naval Historical Collection of the college, consist of documents, reports, and photographs associated with the planning, management, and post-Conference work of the six Conferences. Of particular value are tapes, transcripts, and translations of the Fourth and Sixth Conferences which were held at Newport and holograph transcripts and translations of the three Conferences held in Latin America. Also important are exchanges of official and personal correspondence. To the student concerned with professional education of naval officers, the archives can be a valuable source. Since each *Record of Proceedings* is thoroughly indexed, it is quite easy to determine the scope of the subjects upon which information is available.

Coupled with the post-Conference reports of the Inter-American Naval Conference series and the independent International Seapower Symposia, the researcher can expect to gain a unique insight into the roles, missions, functions, and operations of smaller navies quite unlike the more conventional views held by and in the larger navies. Surely the problem that exists between the United States and its smaller navy allies will be quite similar to those one

*The Inter-American Defense College is developing such a document.

could expect as the Soviet Union broadens its contacts with the smaller nation navies of Africa and the Middle East. Considering the current expansion of Soviet naval power, the value of such information to both planner and student is evident.

Those interested in planning or conducting international conferences would find a cornucopia of details on agenda development, planning, logistics and finance, protocol, parliamentary procedures, translation and interpretation, international travel, customs and port clearance, and similar details. The photographic coverage available is that usual to such a conference but when coupled with the correspondence files could well yield excellent visual support for biographic research on a particular individual. The files in general are not classified, although some specific discussions

and presentations are and have been placed in the classified section of Mahan Library. By use of cross-reference pages, continuity of the complete file is preserved.

A final note addresses the parent Conference—the Inter-American Naval Conference series. As a result of the sixth such Conference, hosted by Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, USN, in Newport, R.I., (19-23 April 1971), the Chiefs of the Inter-American Navies lent their strong support to continuation of the seven specialized Conferences. As a consequence, it can be expected that the Naval War Colleges of the Americas Conference files will grow in both volume and enhanced value to researchers and scholars. It is quite likely that some video tapes will be added in the future.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Capt. Harry H. Caldwell, Commanding Officer, Fleet Training Center, Newport Naval Base, has presented a copy of a journal of cruises of the U.S.S. *Concord*, steam gunboat, in east coast and South American waters for the period June 1891-June 1893. The journal was written by Captain Caldwell's father, Harry H. Caldwell, Sr., who at the time was serving aboard the *Concord* as a naval cadet apprentice. The senior Cald-

well graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1893. In addition to a lengthy narrative of events and observations, the volume contains pictures of foreign naval vessels which were encountered on the cruise and clippings from contemporary newspapers relating to the U.S.S. *Concord*. The gift was presented to the college through the Naval War College Foundation.

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For books are not altogether dead things, but do contain a progeny of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are.

John Milton: Areopagitica: 1644