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This book was originally prepared in Spanish for the South American Commission for Peace, Regional Security, and Democracy, and was completed in May 1988. Some recent developments, such as the military coup that led to the overthrow of President Leslie Manigat in Haiti and its aftershocks, are not included. Although I feel that the essence of the analysis and the book's basic proposals and general conclusions remain valid today, I have added a chapter to update this English-language version, further analyzing the main trends in the region as it enters the 1990s.

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