

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

67-9063

November 17, 1961

Dear Mr. McCone:

As you are aware, the President has expressed a particular interest in the need for an imaginative, energetic and progressive labor program for Latin America in the context of our broader efforts in that area under the Alliance for Progress. I know that your Agency, like the Department of State, fully shares the view that we should, as a matter of urgency, establish and carry out such a program.

In order to insure the necessary coordination of activities in this field, I propose to establish a Latin American Labor Committee under the Chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. This Committee will consist of representatives, at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level, of the agencies principally concerned: The Department of State, including the Agency for International Development, the Department of Labor, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the United States Information Agency. Mr. Richard Goodwin of the White House staff will also be invited to sit regularly with the Committee. Representatives of other agencies may be invited from time to time when matters in which they have a direct interest are to be discussed.

The primary purpose of this Committee will be to insure effective and timely communication among the agencies concerned in order to achieve concerted action in this field. The Committee should, upon its creation, make a comprehensive review of the general effectiveness of total United States labor activities (public and private) in Latin America, and propose to the agencies concerned any action necessary to make these activities better serve the national interest. It should also make recommendations to the agencies concerned for concerted action programs in each Latin American country designed to strengthen labor institutions and programs essential to the achievement of sound country development plans. Finally, it should keep activities under continuing review in order to insure that recommended programs are carried out and that the necessary adaptations are made to reflect changing situations.

I believe this Committee will work best if it operates in a flexible and informal way. In its present early stages, however, it should meet at least once a week at the call of the Chairman.

The Honorable
John A. McCone,
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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In order to avoid the need for a formal staff, I am asking Mr. Henry Hammond of the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, working with Mr. Joaquin Bazan of the Department of Labor, to take charge of the preparations for these meetings and to circulate agendas, minutes and necessary papers.

I would appreciate your informing me at your earliest convenience of the name of the official you designate to represent the Agency on this Committee, as well as of the name of a staff official who can serve as point of contact for the circulation of papers.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Rusk".

Dean Rusk