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LINCOLN

CONTACT REPORT 19

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

DATE: 17 January 1954

PLACE:

PERSONS PRESENT: []

COVER USED: []

DISCUSSION:

2003

1. In the morning we had a long discussion of [] religious concepts while at the breakfast table. Originally, we had contemplated that he would want to go to Church and both my wife and myself told him that there was a Catholic Church in the nearby vicinity and we were wondering at what hour he would like to go to Mass. He replied that actually he is not a practicing Catholic although he believed in the principles of the Catholic Church but not in the Church dogma. He said, however, he had no objection to the fact that his wife and his children were extremely active and regular Church goers. He said that the Catholic Church, as it stands today, is certainly a force against Communism and he appreciated its strength in combating Communism. However, he said his personal convictions were slightly apart from the strict dogma of the Church; therefore, he did not feel it necessary to attend Church regularly. No further plans were made to attend Mass in []

2. The same morning [] again read to me his long recitation of political and ideological ideas, the basis of which is a five page letter which he had prepared before his departure for the United States. My attention was called to these general points: I stated that as a publicity man, it would be highly advantageous for the propaganda campaign to make specific points, whenever possible, of certain general concepts which this plan contained. I advised that although his program asked for social welfare care, it would be much more advantageous if he could pinpoint one or two specific activities which he would like to accomplish immediately after he took office. He agreed with me and stated that in the future, when possible, specific points would be made,

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promises would be kept, and carried out, if he were to assume the control of the Government.

3. [] then talked a bit about the visit of OCANA and ARENAS to [] He stated that both men were desperate for news regarding the early activation of the revolutionary cause against the Communists. They asked [] if he had been able to raise any money, and he said "no," that he had not been able to raise any money in the United States. They then asked him where the money had come from, up to date, and he told them that the money has come from Guatemalans. They said they were surprised to hear this, but they thought the really large support must be forth-coming from the United States. They intended to use all of their contacts to exploit their case. They said that they would talk to McCarthy, to Vice-President Nixon, and to any other representative in the Department of State or any branch of the government who might possible give them some assistance.

4. [] said that he had advised them to make no overt effort to gain support. He told them that the matter would be handled by his group and that it would take considerably more time and training for such a movement. At the present time, ARENAS and OCANA could offer no assets to obtain any backing from any of the people they indicated they would see. However, he said it would be impossible to stop them. He heard no further word from them until ARENAS and OCANA were returning. They both advised him that they had seen many other people whom they indicated they would see in Washington; however, they said they had received no tangible aid or financial support from any of the individuals whom they had contacted. They were desperate then and wanted [] to advise them what kind of word they could take back to their groups and to RUFUS. [] said the by-word for those groups and for RUFUS is to be patient. The words which he used in Spanish were: "Tenga fe en Dios y paciencia." [] said that he gave them no further indication regarding the connections he had in the United States and reaffirmed the fact that any support 'we' (i.e. [] group) were getting would be from Guatemala. He further advised them that the entire attempt to throw the Communists out of Guatemala would come from within the country and not from without.

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6. [] said that he considered OCANA and ARENAS to be opportunists or personally not intelligent enough to understand the necessity for waiting until the movement was ripe for success. I asked him how he could control the actions of such individuals as ARENAS and OCANA. He said that was quite easy because his group gave the financial backing to ARENAS' PUA group. Therefore, it would be very simple for him to cut further trips to the United States merely by controlling the purse strings. He said that although he was not personally knowledgeable, it was obvious to him that the two men had made the trip on funds which had come originally from his group.

7. At this point, I advised him of the arrival of Mr. COLON, an individual who was collaborating with me and who presently would be in HONDURAS. I stated that I hoped we would have a good chance to chat with him (i.e. with [] since we hoped that [] would write a letter of recommendation accrediting Mr. COLON to []'s organization in Honduras. I advised him that Mr. COLON would be a communications link and a technical advisor who would provide assistance to [] propaganda group in HONDURAS. [] said that he would be very happy to do this and that, in addition to this, he would send a personal communication to RUFUS indicating that COLON would be available to assist the propaganda group in Honduras. At this point, it was necessary to break up the conversation because of COLON' arrival in []

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RDG/njl/jc
9 February 1954
Distribution:
1 []
1-Chrono
1-PT File