

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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9 MAY 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala City

INFO: PRESUCCESS, Headquarters
Acting []

LEWOLIN

KUAFWJH

Draft of Broadcast "Individual Defense Against Hostile Propaganda"

1. Attached is copy of a text which we have drafted for use by SHERWOOD. In order not to betray our connection with SHERWOOD, you must not show this text to any agent. However, the text might suggest to you some general operational ideas. There is naturally no reason why your local outlets should not utilize it a f t e r it has been broadcast by SHERWOOD. We must leave this to their own initiative in listening to these broadcasts and utilizing the proposals contained in them. But if one of your contacts should ask for your advice, do at least not raise any objections.

2. Your comments re the attached text are invited. We shall also appreciate any further suggestions which you might have regarding additional topics for such "How to ..." broadcasts.

[]
JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachment

JED/RF1/a

6 May 1954

Distributions:

- 2 - [] (w/att)
- 2 - WASH (w/att)
- 2 - [] (w/att)
- 2 - [] (w/att)
- 5 - LIA: (w/att)

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(Individual Defense Against Hostile Propaganda)

The government propaganda machine, The Communist Party, the other political parties backing the Arbenz regime as well as the several communist-controlled organizations such as the UML, the AJOB, the AOC, the "Peace Committees" and many others-- they all flood you with their propaganda. They address you via radio and in meetings as well as by private conversations, in which their paid and unpaid agitators try to win you over to the cause of the "Revolution", Arbenz-Soviet style.

At the same time, however, the regime attempts to muzzle all voices of the opposition and all independent opinions in general. The screws of censorship are being tightened every day, independent radio stations have been silenced and terror, official and otherwise, acts where Arbenz and the communist wire-pullers behind him consider the quasi-legal methods still as inadequate.

You and every freedom-loving citizen of our country ought therefore to take an active hand in resisting and frustrating this insidious propaganda monopoly -- as an individual, without the direct support of a legitimate opposition party or press. You are at a disadvantage, to be sure, in this battle of the wits against the communist agitators who have received extensive training in the deceitful methods of Stalinist propaganda, in schools in Mexico or even in Moscow or Prague. But if they may know more slogans, more tricks, more lies -- you have the incomparable advantage of defending your freedom, your right to learn the truth -- about your future and the future of your country, a truth which the Arbenz-Communist regime has every reason to fear.

If you can oppose a government speaker by making a speech of your own, refuting his claims and exposing his lies, do so by all means. But even if you don't feel qualified to make a regular speech or if the situation does not make it safe for you to appear on a platform as an anti-communist, anti-government speaker, you are still

not defenseless. In any case, you can ask questions -- whether interrupting the speaker, or asking them in a discussion after his speech, or in private conversation, or in letters to the editor of a newspaper or to the manager of a radio station which give you communist-government propaganda instead of the truth. It may not always be necessary to sign your name to the letter, if you fear reprisals.

Questions, asked at the right moment and in the right way, can accomplish quite a few useful results. First of all, they will show the agitator that his audience is not altogether gullible, that they have opinions of their own -- and this is always disconcerting for a communist who, after all, is the servant of a totalitarian philosophy under which only one single opinion, the opinion of the dictator, is permitted.

Second, your questions may force the speaker to deviate from his prepared speech in order to dispel the doubts which your questions have created. You should of course try to get him away from his favorite propaganda slogans and to speak about topics which he would prefer to avoid -- for instance, the subservience of the PGT to Moscow, the frequent trips of its leaders behind the Iron Curtain where they receive their orders, the subservience of Arbenz to the PGT, the ebb in the government treasury whose funds are being spent for propaganda instead of for the welfare of the people, and many, many other subjects.

Third, if you ask your questions in presence of others, you will also help them to resist the impact of that propaganda. By showing them that the opinion of the speaker is absolutely not the only opinion possible, by drawing their attention to weaknesses and contradictions in the agitator's remarks, you will stimulate their independent thinking, you will provoke doubts in their minds -- and you will thus not only combat that propaganda, but immunize your friends, neighbors and fellow-

workers against it.

You may start by asking very simple questions which are easy for you to remember and don't identify you clearly as an active member of the opposition. For instance, you may ask as soon as the speaker has made a statement which you feel is not correct or at least doubtful: "How do you know? Have you been there yourself? Can you prove that?" or something similar.

In many cases, the speaker may have been given this information in a cell meeting or during a training course of the communist party (PCT): naturally, he will be reluctant to admit this -- and this will make him pause, begin to stutter or avoid an answer altogether. In the last case, repeat your question or have somebody else repeat it. This second time, you might put your question more bluntly perhaps asking "What's the matter with you? Are you afraid or ashamed to tell us where you learned that?"

Some times, he may admit that he read the disputed fact in the TRIBUNA POPULAR or some other communist or government publication. Then ask him "And why should I (we) believe what you read there? Don't we know how many lies are printed in newspapers?" -- thus forcing him into a defense of his source of information: but a propagandist who must defend instead of being able to attack is already in a weakened position.

You may also begin your questions by asking the speaker: "Who gave you instructions to tell me (us) that?" or "What do they pay you for this speech?" or "What do you expect to win for yourself? Do you want to become a commissar in Soviet Guatemala?" or any similar questions.

Questions pertaining to the international ramifications of communism will always perturb an agitator, whether he is an admitted communist or disguised as an Arbenz-

ista. Depending upon who the speaker is and what he talks about, you may, for instance ask: "Have you visited Russia (or another communist country)? If you think that conditions are ideal there why didn't you stay there?" Or, if he discusses agrarian reform, you may ask: "But isn't this reform only the first step towards collective and state farms, just as it was in Russia?" -- thus forcing him either to declare that the Russian example does not apply to Guatemala (which is very embarrassing to any true communist) or to admit that the present agrarian reform is indeed only one step and that the communists want to go much farther.

If the agitator uses "Peace" slogans, ask him: "How about disarming the Soviet Army? Doesn't it have more soldiers, more tanks, more planes than any other Army?" If he complains how communists and other "friends of peace" are being persecuted in Western countries, ask him how anti-communists are being treated in Russia, question him about the fate of Beria, Soviet Marshall and chief of Stalin's secret police, executed last year after a secret trial and about the fate of so many other communist leaders who were assassinated by their own comrades.

We cannot enumerate all the possible questions here today. But we hope that these examples have shown you how even a little question may have a big effect, if it is asked in a meeting or in private conversation, at the right time and in the right way. We have confidence that the natural intelligence, the inborn will and the love of freedom which are common to so many of our fellow-citizens, will enable you to make the best possible use of the suggestions which we have just discussed: showing you how you can even as an isolated individual successfully oppose the propaganda machine of our communist-Arbenzista oppressors!
