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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

5 April 1954

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM : [] WH/PW

SUBJECT : CALLIGERIS Manifesto and "Philosophy of Cruz y Quetzal"

1. The Subject should have been written by CALLIGERIS, [] or some other member of the SYNCARP group, so that the Subject would contain material intimately Guatemalan, readily recognized as Guatemalan, appealing to other Guatemalans! The undersigned's basic criticism of the Subject is that a Guatemalan Manifesto and Philosophy should have been prepared first, submitted to LINCOLN and Headquarters for comments, and then returned to SYNCARP for its re-writing and execution.

2. If we are to assume a responsibility, not rightly ours, the Subject has failed to meet the challenge for the following reasons:

A. The Subject does not indicate, in any way, the purpose or the target, nor does it contain a specific, factual indictment of the present regime.

B. The "philosophy" will tend to spread, not only a hate-the-rich program, but drive further wedges between the Indians and the Ladinos.

C. The Subject is dripping with insincerity, unbelievable promises, and if the promises made in the "Manifesto" were fulfilled, they would lead to a state of anarchy, internequine strife, and a return to "indianism".

D. This is a demagogic paper but there is no demagog.

E. The SYNCARP group has, through stickers, stamps, stationery, newspapers, radio and word-of-mouth, used the symbols: God, Country and Liberty. The proposed symbols of Cross and Quetzal would be "changing symbols in mid-stream". "Cross and Quetzal" are less direct symbolistically than God, for which the Cross actually stands, and Country, for which Quetzal actually stands. In addition, with the current wave of social reform and social revolution in Guatemala, the necessity to incorporate a word such as "Liberty" is essential. "Cross and Quetzal" as a symbol smacks more of the Medieval than of the 20th Century.

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3. In order to be able to prepare a really constructive critique re the Subject, the undersigned would have to know what such a "Manifesto" is supposed to do, who it is supposed to reach, when it is to be given and the method whereby it will be presented.

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WH/PW

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