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JA 1202 memo

January 14, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: CIA Annexes to Progress Reports on NSC 5432/1 and NSC 5411/2

There are attached two summary CIA annexes to the OCB Progress Reports on NSC 5432/1 and NSC 5411/2. It is expected that these progress reports will be considered by the Board on January 19, 1955. The DCI will be prepared to elaborate on them at the OCB luncheon on January 19 at the request of any member.

It is requested that these summary reports be returned to the undersigned after the progress report has been considered by the Board.

[]

Operations Coordinating Board
Assistant

Attachments: (2)

SA/DCI []

Distribution:

- Copy 1 with Copy 2 of 106407-A-1 & Copy 2 of 105801/1 Mr. L. Randolph Higgs, State
- Copy 2 with Copy 3 of 106407-A-1 & Copy 2 of 105801/1 Mr. W. H. Godel, Defense
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REMARKS: Attached is a proposed statement for the DCI to make to the NSC when it considers the Progress Report on NSC 5432/1. A summary report which was prepared for the DCI in connection with the OCB report is also attached, as well as a longer briefing memo.

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CIA Operations in Latin America in Support of NSC 5432/1

(30 April - 1 December 1954)

The main emphasis of CIA operations in Latin America in the last eight months of 1954 was in the field of anti-Communism. Among the assets which can be used are organizations and groups dealing with youth and students, labor, emigres and religious activities. We are also able to work through the press, radio, films, television as well as business and political groups. Operations have been most extensive in Chile, Columbia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico and Cuba, as well as Guatemala. Successful efforts were made to expose the Communist nature of front organizations and to frustrate their plans including in some cases, the breaking up of scheduled meetings and demonstrations.

Through controlled assets, the Communist nature of the Arbenz regime in Guatemala was exposed and the danger of that regime demonstrated. Political activities of the exiles from Guatemala in Mexico were largely prevented.

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CIA Progress Report on NSC 5432/1
30 April 1954 through 1 December 1954

Latin America

Summary

I. Major Actions

a. The intensity of CIA operations in the North and West Coast area was increased during the period.

In Chile action against a Communist-sponsored celebration honoring pro-Communist Chilean poet Neruda resulted in decreasing its impact and embarrassing the special guest, Maya Ehrenburg. Communist infiltration of high places in the legislature and Communist control of the important field of student affairs were attacked. Exposure of the Communist regime in Guatemala made a favorable impression on Chilean public opinion, and the Communist Youth Festival was prohibited by the Chilean President after a campaign against holding it. Another success was CIA's publication "Estudios Sobre El Comunismo" (Studies on Communism). These campaigns were carried out through assets in the fields of labor, youth and students, politics, emigres, and journalism.

An anti-Communist religious front in Colombia has obtained governmental, religious and public recognition and has acquired adherents through its successful programs of mass meetings, radio and printed propaganda, and participation in public ceremonies. Controlled mechanisms in the field of journalism have cooperated with the religious front.

In Bolivia a successful campaign was carried out to focus public attention on the Guatemalan situation as an example of the danger faced by Latin American states from Communist infiltration. A similar campaign was carried out in Ecuador. In Cuenca, Ecuador, a meeting of the Communist-dominated National Student Federation was broken up by anti-Communist students incited to action by our mechanisms.

b. In the River Plate-Brazil area operations are generally improving, except in Argentina where there are

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none. In Brazil, efforts concentrated on exposing the Communist nature of the Latin American's Conference of Women, and on the exposure and elimination of Communist candidates in the critical national congressional state, and local elections of 3 October. The Brazilian mechanisms in the youth and student, emigre, press, radio, business and straight propaganda and action fields have contributed towards creating a political climate favorable for the Brazilian Government's execution of its first strong anti-Communist actions. "Communism" may become a major Brazilian political issue in the October 1955 Presidential campaign. These groups were instrumental in destroying the aforementioned Women's Congress and met with some success in torpedoing the campaigns of Communists seeking election on legal party tickets.

Action in Uruguay involved a major operation through the press, radio and youth organizations against local Communist demonstrations in support of the Arbenz government of Guatemala. Actions to prevent the election of Communists to public office have apparently succeeded in preventing the election to the Uruguayan Senate of a known and dangerous Communist. Controlled newsmen were sent to Montevideo from other Latin American countries, to cover the UNESCO Conference from a standpoint favorable to the free world and unfavorable to Soviet policy.

c. Mexico, Cuba and Guatemala continue as the countries of greatest CIA activity in the Mexico-Caribbean area.

Controlled assets in Mexico have substantially influenced public opinion away from the belief that the U. S. intervened in Guatemalan affairs to the belief that Guatemala was a cancer in Latin America, and that something had to be done to eradicate it. Controlled mechanisms effected the dismissal of the Rector of the University of Oaxaca and the Director of Fine Arts, both Communists. These mechanisms also obtained prohibition by the Mexican Government of overt and covert political

activities

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activities by Guatemala exiles. Increased governmental interest in Communist matters has in turn brought CIA assets into greater local prominence and importance.

Controlled groups in Cuba continued their campaigns against Communist infiltration in student, labor, religious and youth circles. Cuban attention was focused on the Guatemalan revolt through assets in the journalism field. Programs have been placed on the radio. Business-labor cooperation and anti-Communist themes have been put onto television. The youth front has been effective in promoting solidarity against Communism among young people through booklets on Communism and young Catholic workers' publications.

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