

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

2 JUN 1954

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INFO: PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

LINCOLN

KUCOWN
LA VOZ DEL EJERCITO -- Note to HEGARTY

Request that you transmit the attached note, dated 31 May, to Francis R.
HEGARTY.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachment:
JCD []
31 May 1954
Distribution:

2 4 [] (w/att)
2 4 WASH (w/att)
3 - LINC (w/att)

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PP

P-3-1/Hegarty

31 May 1954

For Rodolfo.

1. We had already noted in our letter #776, dated 15 May, that we considered the article on alleged atom bombs printed in PRONTO #4 most unfortunate (because it tends to create a scare in the wrong direction and because it is likely to weaken the credibility of the paper) -- and you agreed with us.

2. We find now, however, that the same item has appeared in #8 of LA VOZ DEL EJERCITO as well. While we understand that it is difficult to control the details of the editorial work of PRONTO -- which is published in another country --, isn't it possible to exercise more adequate editorial control over LA VOZ?

3. CORNELIA also expressed concern about this article. She is quoted as having stated the following:

"The article BOMBAS ATOMICAS destroys whatever faith one might have built up in the rest of the paper. The paper is addressed to the military. If any section of the general Guatemalan public is capable of receiving the more serious type propaganda, it's the army and they know that no atomic arms were received. It is too easy to see through that lie. Therefore the tendency could be to think, "if this article is a falsehood, probably the others are, too", and the effectiveness of the paper is lost.

4. CORNELIA also commented that the article "Hay Que Salvar el Honor Militar" uses too much language of the streets: the article should have been on a more serious and dignified level. On the other hand, she suggests that the right-hand corner box "Ningún Militar acatará" might be reprinted in larger type since it is very important to military men.

5. Please discuss the above criticisms with MANUEL and emphasize how important it is to build up the prestige of LA VOZ, not to endanger it by thoughtlessly reprinted items as in the case of the a-bomb article or by careless use of language which might offend the readers for which the paper is primarily intended. Just because the paper in general fulfills its purpose well enough, we are very anxious to eliminate such occasional mistakes. We understand that it might be technically impossible for you to read all manuscripts for LA VOZ before they go to the printer, but MANUEL should at least check with you all items of which he cannot be completely certain that the information is correct and the publication desirable. Make it clear to him - in a diplomatic way - that we do not want to interfere with his and his associates' work, but we want to help his and PANCHO's cause, by applying our much vaster sources of information (as well as our greater experience in propaganda and related matters).

6. We shall appreciate receiving from you not only a reply to the above, but also a general report as to how editorial matters of LA VOZ, PRONTO etc. are being regularly handled between you and Manuel, whether you see any manuscripts in advance, etc.

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