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2003

26 May 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Raymond G. Leddy
Officer in Charge, Central
America and Panama Affairs
Room 4103 New State Dep't Building
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Moscow and Latin American Communist Front
organization propaganda on Guatemala situation.

1. Attached hereto is an FBIS report on Moscow radio to Latin America (in Portuguese) which I believe may be of interest to Mr. Holland and possibly to the Secretary. It shows just how prepared and ready the international Communist organization has been to jump into action "in defense of Guatemala." Your attention is particularly invited to the timing here. Already by May 22 there had been organized either actual or notional committees in Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil -- committees calling themselves "Friends of Guatemala" and the like, which have allegedly issued statements and denunciations of the United States and which have been picked up and reported back to Latin America by Radio Moscow. The coordination and artificial "spontaneity" of all this business is the most obvious evidence of its common direction. This material gives added point to the Secretary's statements at Caracas concerning the significance and methods of operation of the International Communist organization. Incidentally, it should also serve to put the finger on quite a number of Communists in the several Latin American states.

2. Also attached is another FBIS piece, monitoring the Moscow Soviet Home Service on May 24, which is of some interest in the same general connection.

3. I have requested that [] in the several Latin American countries concerned give specially added attention to the identification of individuals connected with the so-called "Friends of Guatemala" committees, and to obtain and report to us urgently such other information as they can get about the dates and circumstances of origin of such committees. We have, of course, been following these developments and have noted a pattern of this kind of activity heretofore. For example, as of 20 October 1953 the wrappings

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were taken off a brand new Guatemalan-Brazilian Cultural Institute in Rio de Janeiro. This was considered to be a highly suspicious and entirely artificial organization at that time, in view of the fact that there are very few Guatemalans in Brazil who would have any reason to be interested in a bona fide cultural organization, and there is so little exchange of products, cultural or otherwise, between the two countries. The conclusion which we draw is that the Communists have been readying this massive propaganda mechanism for a long time so as to have the capability of spontaneous and coordinated attacks of the sort which we see here. This is, of course, not the only use, but clearly it is one.

[]
FRANK G. FISHER
Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachment

cc: Mr. Holland
(without attachment)
cc: DCI (without attachment)
cc: AC/PP (w/out attachment)
1 cc - C/WH ✓

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MOSCOW IN PORTUGUESE TO LATIN AMERICA 2300 5/22

(ANONYMOUS COMMENTARY ENTITLED: "LATIN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORTS GUATEMAL'S INDEPENDENCE")

(SUMMARY) THE UNITED STATES HAS LATELY INCREASED ITS ATTACKS AGAINST GUATEMALA AND ITS GOVERNMENT. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT, SENATORS, AND JOURNALISTS HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OVER THE RADIO AND IN THE PRESS "CALLING OPENLY FOR INTERVENTION IN GUATEMALA."

THESE "U.S. INTERVENTIONIST PLANS" ARE CONDEMNED BY THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA. MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD IN MANY CITIES AND TOWNS OF LATIN AMERICA.

ACCORDING TO THE CHILEAN PAPER "EL SIGLO" A LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN DEFENSE OF GUATEMAL'S SOVEREIGNTY WAS HELD RECENTLY IN SANTIAGO. SENATORS, DEPUTIES, TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF STUDENTS' ORGANIZATIONS SPOKE AT THIS GATHERING. THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CHILE, FERNANDO PIZARRO, PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA TO "FIGHT AGAINST THE AIMS OF THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS IN GUATEMALA AND LATINA AMERICAN."

IN URUGUAY, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, COSTA RICA, MEXICO, AND BOLIVIA "FRIENDS OF GUATEMALA" COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN CREATED. APPEALING TO THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE, THE "FRIENDS OF GUATEMALA" COMMITTEE OF BOLIVIA ASKED THEM TO JOIN WITH THE OTHER PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA IN EXPRESSING THEIR SOLIDARITY TOWARD THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE.

A GROUP OF BRAZILIAN "JURISTS" AND COSTA RICAN WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS HAVE "CONDEMNED THE U.S. INTERVENTIONIST POLICY TOWARD GUATEMALA."

"THE VAST MOVEMENT OF PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC OPINION IN THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH SYMPATHIZES WITH THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE IN DEFENSE OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY SHOWS THAT THE STRUGGLE OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA."

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