

DOCUMENT NO. 006
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
2 June 1991 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989
AUTH: 111 752
DATE: 8/10/79 REVISOR: C J

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Sidney Gruson

1. The following is submitted pursuant to your request to cover one aspect of the situation with respect to Gruson. [You already have in your possession the basic memorandum with attachments, together with a considerable accumulation of press clippings, etc.]

2. AB [] in Mexico City [] has submitted several reports both orally and in writing concerning his observations of Gruson while the latter was in Mexico about a year ago (more or less). Our man reported that Gruson first came to his attention because of what appeared to be a fairly obvious "leftish slant" to Gruson's reporting in Mexico. Thereafter and on one or more occasions he met Gruson and had conversations with him. In these conversations Gruson gave further distinct evidences of "Marxist" and "pro-Communist" sympathies. In one conversation which lasted for over an hour, Gruson went to great length in an attempt to demonstrate and persuade our man that the Mexican Communist labor leader, Lombardo Toledano, was not a Communist and was not deliberately associating himself with or giving support to Communist activities and causes. He contended that Lombardo Toledano was nothing more nor less than a sincere and convinced progressive and reformist labor leader, interested only in the improvement of the lot of the working man in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America. We, of course, regard Lombardo Toledano as one of the principal and most effective Communist operatives in this Hemisphere. Incidentally, as regards the current situation, he has been officially blamed by the Honduran regime as one of the instigators and supporters of the strike leaders in the paralyzing Honduran strikes. Moreover, we have solid intelligence proving that he was the principal organizer of the host of so-called "Guatemalan friendship societies" throughout Latin America, which societies are comprised of the leading Communists within the respective countries and which were very vocal at the time of Caracas and have been extensively quoted and played back by Radio Moscow in broadcasts to Latin America. []

3. It is hoped that the TIMES will not see fit to post Gruson to any of the Latin American hot spots at any time in the near future.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

~~SECRET~~

It would be very interesting to obtain his current views concerning Lombardo Toledano -- especially if this could be done in a reasonably subtle or casual way so as not to put him too much on his guard.

[]

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

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