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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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FROM: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO: AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR OFFICERS

ACTION: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

REPORTS HAVE REACHED THE DEPARTMENT FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT THERE WILL BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY, PROBABLY IN JANUARY 1949, AN AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY, INSPIRED BY THE COMMUNISTS. THIS CONGRESS WILL BE COMPARABLE TO THE WORLD CONGRESS OF INTELLECTUALS HELD IN BRESLAU, POLAND, IN AUGUST 1948. (A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ON THE BRESLAU CONGRESS IS BEING SENT EACH OFFICE BY TRANSMITTAL SLIP.)

RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS OF THE PROPOSED CONGRESS, AND THAT THEIR TRUE AIMS ARE TO MOLD PUBLIC OPINION WHICH WOULD OPPOSE PARTICIPATION BY THE OTHER AMERICAN REPUBLICS ON THE SIDE OF THE DEMOCRACIES IN THE EVENT THE USSR SHOULD ENGAGE IN WAR WITH THE WESTERN NATIONS; AND, IN THE EVENT THAT SUCH EFFORTS FAIL, TO ORGANIZE AND DIRECT SABOTAGE OPERATIONS AGAINST SOURCES OF SUPPLIES OF WAR MATERIALS IN LATIN AMERICA. THIS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH NATIONAL COMMITTEES WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING FORMED IN THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS, WITH SUBCOMMITTEES AMONG LABOR UNIONS AND CULTURAL AND SOCIAL GROUPS. PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ORGANIZATION ARE PLANNED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN MEXICO CITY.

HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIST ORGANIZERS ARE EARNESTLY ENDEAVORING TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION OF INTELLECTUALS, LABOR LEADERS, AND MORE LIBERAL ELEMENTS THROUGH THE AMERICAS, HIDING THEIR TRUE AIMS UNDER THE GUISE OF DESIRE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY. MOST PROMINENT OF THE REAL ORGANIZERS IS COMMUNIST SENATOR JUAN MARINELLO OF CUBA. EX-PRESIDENT LAZARO CARDENAS OF MEXICO IS RELIABLY REPORTED PROVISIONALLY TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF MARINELLO TO PRESIDE OVER THE CONGRESS. HOWEVER, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CARDENAS ACCEPTED

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ONLY ON THE BASIS THAT THE INVITATION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY "INTELLECTUALS AND HONEST LEADERS OF THE CONTINENT" AND THAT CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A POLITICAL ACTION. THERE IS OTHER EVIDENCE THAT COMMUNISTS ARE MEETING SUCCESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE CONGRESS FROM NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS.

MISSIONS ARE AUTHORIZED, IN THEIR DISCRETION, TO BRING THE FOREGOING INFORMATION TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED. ALL EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES SHOULD, OF COURSE, REPORT PROMPTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MOVEMENT WHICH MAY COME TO THEIR ATTENTION. COPY SHOULD BE FURNISHED THE EMBASSY AT MEXICO CITY.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY BEGIN ENDEAVORS TO PUBLICIZE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE THE COMMUNIST NATURE OF THE PROPOSED CONGRESS WITH A VIEW TO DISSUADING NON-COMMUNISTS FROM ATTENDANCE OR COLLABORATION. WITH THIS IN VIEW, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS WILL STUDY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PUBLICIZING THE CONGRESS LOCALLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, EDITORIAL COMMENT OR STATEMENTS BY REPUTABLE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY BE MADE CONCERNING THE CONGRESS, WILL BE MOST USEFUL. IN ADDITION TO ANY LOCAL USE WHICH MAY BE MADE THEREOF, SUCH DATA SHOULD ALSO BE FURNISHED BY CABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT IN SUMMARY FORM. FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, DISCRETIONS SHOULD BE USED TO AVOID IDENTIFYING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS THE SOURCE OF STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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