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File

27 Aug.

WP

25 August 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Informal Liaison with Kersten Committee

1. Mr. Pforzheimer and I called on Congressman Kersten in order to brief him with regard to our own release activities in Guatemala and elsewhere. I read to the Congressman the subject titles of the documents which had been or would be released through the 27th. He appeared to be pleased and gratified with the results. It was reaffirmed to him that as received, copies of all of these documents named would be forwarded to the Kersten Committee.

2. In this connection Mr. Kersten appeared to take an acquisitive interest in several of these documents, therefore I informed him that several of them are probably to be used by Ambassador Cabot Lodge in his forthcoming address to the American Legion. The Congressman readily accepted this and showed no sign of disappointment; I personally believe that he is strongly concerned and motivated by the need for exposing the Communist Monster. In this connection the Congressman asked whether we could forward to him a photostat of the "Without Contemplation" telegram. This we volunteered to do and also to forward to him the Spanish text in advance of the receipt of the photostat. (We have requested the Spanish text by cable). (Mr. Smyser's action to Mr. Pforzheimer; Advise Pforzheimer that Lodge will not release until September 2 -- let Kersten know this).

3. Mr. Kersten was advised of the new procedure during Mr. [redacted] absence (i.e., that all substantive material and documents would be forwarded through Mr. Pforzheimer and that if anything of interest should arise such as information as to our general activities which I have been passing to Kersten, Mr. Pforzheimer would arrange for one of my colleagues to call on him). (The individual designated for this task, although not revealed by name, is Mr. Smyser).

4. Mr. Pforzheimer advised the Congressman of our having prepared the way to assist Mr. Hillings in the person of [redacted] The Congressman seemed exceedingly pleased by our action in this regard. We discussed the unfortunate aspects of the [redacted] statement and its effect on the current revelation of the Guatemalan powers, etc. The conversation developed

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along the lines of speculation as to whether the [redacted] could have been a false one. In view of the Congressman's extreme interest in the question I had raised I advised him that we had already taken steps: 1) to discover whether the statement was true and 2) to raise the question before the public as to the possibility of its being untrue. The Congressman was extremely impressed by the Agency's fast action in this regard.

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