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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO : Chief, Acquisitions Branch, CIA Library

1 June 1962

FROM : WH Area Coordinator, LY/AB

SUBJSCT: Increased Traffic in the Latin American Area

The following observations are presented, per your request, on the current increase in Ly/AB "traffic" in the Latin American area:

1. Increased subscriptions:

During May 1962, 282 Forms 1395 were processed for CIA requesters. Of these requests, 216 represented new subscriptions for Latin American newspapers and periodicals (exclusive of the special Cuban project). Of these 216 new subscriptions, about 90-95% were placed on behalf of the new Latin American Section of FDD (FDD/BEA/LAS); and of these, about three-quarters represented requests for either provincial papers and/or Communist Party publications which, it is believed, will not be readily available to the part-time PPOs. Many provincial papers, for example, are to be obtained only by actually visiting the provincial city of origin and the majority of these cities do not have a consular staff upon whom the Embassy PPO can call. This underscores, once more, one of the several weaknesses of the part-time PPO system, and the need for a "regional PPO" in some form or other, be it through the State Department system or through a commercial channel. This new, intensive interest "in depth" in Latin America has never before been manifest....even in the halcyon days of 1954-56, when the Guatemala problem soared interest in the area, no attempt was made to cover Latin America beyond the national capitals and the Consular General area of Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is of considerable doubt that the part-time PPOs, who have neither the time nor funds to travel, will

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be able to provide the requisite rapid and complete service that this new expansion is even now demanding.

2. "Commercial" Channels:

25X1A2d2 The [REDACTED] project for Cuban materials is a sort of "commercial" operation and has given/is giving good results. The inherent physical limitations of the arrangements, however, mitigate terribly against broad use of this particular type of "commercial" operation. It demonstrates, however, how a commercial arrangement of broader scope might be utilized to advantage.

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[REDACTED]
DINATOR

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