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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Guatemala/France

DATE DISTR. 21 SEP 50

SUBJECT Activities of Manuel Eduardo Hubner Richardson in Guatemala

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A
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1. Between two-hundred-and-fifty and three hundred persons attended a lecture in Guatemala City by prominent Chilean Communist Manuel Eduardo Hubner Richardson on 31 August 1950 concerning the poetry of Pablo Neruda. The invitations were issued by the Ministry of Public Education of Guatemala, and the following organizations collaborated in sponsoring the events:

- Alianza de la Juventud Democratica
- Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca
- Grupo Saker-ti
- Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Educacion
- Sindicato de Trabajadores Intellectuales y Artistas Revolucionarios
- Sindicato Nacional de Periodistas

2. Hubner was introduced by Doctor Raul Cosegueda, Minister of Education, who described Hubner as a person of political importance in his own country, a man of letters, and a strong supporter of peace and democratic ideals. Cosegueda also described Neruda as a "great fighter for peace."

3. Hubner's lecture lasted an hour and a half, and was devoted almost entirely to the reading of Neruda's poems. He concluded with a five-minute eulogy of Neruda, with laudatory comments on his efforts for peace.

4. In the audience, composed mainly of teachers and students affiliated with sponsoring organizations, source noted the presence of Alfonso Organtes, former Guatemalan Ambassador to Chile; Alvaro Hugo Salguero, private secretary of President Arevalo; Virginia Bravo Letelier, Chilean Communist, employee of the Ministry of Education; Eugenio Silva Pena, former Guatemalan Foreign Minister; Antonio Sierra Gonzalez, an official of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CTG); Victor Manuel Gutierrez, Secretary General of the CTG; Jose Manuel Fortuny, Communist and political leader; Matilde Elena Lopez, Communist and officer of the Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca.

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5. A few days before his lecture Hubner said that he had received a letter from France written by Antonio Aparicio Herrera, who is married to Hubner's daughter, Alma Hubner Vidal. According to Hubner, his daughter and son-in-law had been seeing a great deal of the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda in their Paris apartment in the quai d'Orleans. Neruda sent a message to Hubner in which he expressed surprise that his candidacy for the Peace Prize had not been sufficiently aided from Latin America. Apparently Italy and Mexico have proposed Neruda as the winner of this prize. But Neruda told Hubner that he felt he should be supported by all the national peace committees in Latin America, especially by those of Chile and Guatemala. He urged that cables be sent immediately addressed to the Peace Committee in Prague, or to the Comite Mundial de la Paz in Paris.
6. Hubner said that Antonio and Alma were planning to be at the station to meet the new Guatemalan Minister to France, Enrique Munoz Neany, when he arrived. Antonio wrote also that Neruda did not intend to go to the station to greet Munoz Neany, feeling that it would be lacking in discretion to appear in public with the new minister on the day of his arrival in Paris.
7. From Hubner's remarks source said that evidently Antonio and Alma had been in rather close contact with the previous Guatemalan Minister to France, Luis Cardoza y Aragon and his wife during their sojourn in Paris. According to Antonio, the Cardozas left Paris on 17 August 1950 via New York for Mexico, where source believes they are at present.
8. Antonio also thanked Hubner for "orienting" them concerning the new Guatemalan Minister to France, Munoz Neany, and assured Hubner that the information would not be wasted, the same being true, he added, with respect to the "secretary in London." Hubner did not enlarge upon these remarks.

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Comment: It is believed that the "secretary in London," probably refers to Lorenzo Montufar Nevas, who was reported in [redacted] to be going to London for three months and then to Paris as Secretary of the Guatemalan Legation.

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