

Kersten Committee

LRH

SECRET

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Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 24 June 1954

1. Mr. Ben Brown, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, informed me that Pat McMahon, the newspaperman who accompanied Cong. Hillings on his trip to Latin America, had sent a copy of his report to Mr. Kersten in Europe, and that the report was extremely critical of Costa Rica and President Figueres, whose support the State Department was hoping for in forthcoming OAS meetings. McMahon had cabled Kersten urging the report's immediate release, which he claimed to be at the suggestion of Vice President Nixon. Ben Brown talked to McMahon, at which time the latter talked with Kersten and Hillings on the trans-Atlantic phone, and Hillings stated that he wished the report to be released as his report as a one man subcommittee of the Kersten Committee. As Hillings did not go to Costa Rica, this would eliminate that material from the report. Hillings requested a delay until Saturday so that he could cable a forword, including a statement that immediately upon its return to this country the Kersten Committee would launch into a full-scale investigation of Communist penetration in Latin America. Assistant Secretary of State, Thruston Morton, has been in touch with Vice President Nixon, who feels that the report is quite poor and who desired to tone it down. The Vice President ^{allegedly} mentioned this matter to the DCI at the NSC meeting on 24 June, and instructed the State Department to send a cable at once in his name to Hillings urging that the publication of the report be held up until Hillings returned to this country. I have informed Mr. Wisner of these developments. Mr. Wisner had suggested that CIA be allowed to review the McMahon report as publication of part of it might be helpful. However, I have pointed out that it is largely a State Department matter and that the Department is on top of the situation; that the only available copy of the report is in McMahon's hands; and that I felt it would be inadvisable at this time to approach McMahon.

DOS review(s) completed.