

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

4 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Mexico City in Hemisphere Congress, Discussion between Langtry and Headquarters Officers on March 3 and 4, 1954.

1. The name of the Congress proposed by LINCOLN was "Congreso de los Vencedores del Comunismo". This name has been tentatively changed to "Congreso de los Combatientes Progresivos Contra el Comunismo".

2. Headquarters has given its firm approval for the Congress to take place, the only condition being that plans proceed in an orderly fashion and in sufficient detail to insure a successful Congress.

3. Headquarters' officers feel that 15 April is definitely too early to stage a successful Congress. May 1st, May 15 or even a later date would be preferable owing to the many preparatory steps needed to assure success of the Congress. Several of the reasons why Headquarters' officers believe 15 April is too soon:

a. All [] will have to submit recommendations as to whom should be invited.

b. The original plan probably ^{DOES NOT ALLOW} ~~allow~~ time for [] and the ^{EMISSARIES} ~~representatives~~ to perform their organizing tasks.

c. All delegates should be given 45 days ~~in~~ advance notice if possible.

d. Since the Caracas Conference may continue until 15 April, it is believed wise to wait for the results of that Conference.

4. Headquarters has approved as a first step in proceeding with Congress plans, [] going to Mexico to bind together the several WSBURNT factions in order to guarantee a semblance of unity among these groups. [] will carry with him a tacit promise of ten thousand dollars supplied for the proposed Congress.

5. LINCOLN step No. 9 should be rewritten and clarified in accordance with the oral agreement at Headquarters. It has been agreed that few if any agents will be invited to the Congress. The term "controlled persons" should be interpreted to mean unwitting persons serving in our anti-Communist activities in the various countries of the Hemisphere. It is quite probable that ~~XXXXXX~~ certain persons such as delegates invited for the purpose of giving speeches, will receive direct personal invitations. On the other hand, invitations will be addressed to organized groups who will in turn be expected to select a delegate of their choice.

6. The International Organizations Division will endeavor to supply a man who is experienced in directing such congresses. It would be a great advantage to have him made available before 10 March in order that he might spend about ten days studying the problem in WH, 10 days doing a similar job in LINCOLN from where he would proceed to Mexico ~~AND where he would remain until the Congress has been held.~~ In Mexico he probably would work [] About three weeks before the Congress begins it is anticipated that [] would visit Mexico as a tourist in order to provide personnel communications with [] [] has previously acted as intermediary between Group and [] []

7. It is suggested that four emissaries be used instead of two in order to cut in half the time required for field organization. It is to be pointed out that this would not cost much more money than using two emissaries.

8. It is suggested that [] [] be brought up from Chile in order to provide an experienced and controlled hand in the Congress. He has successfully conducted a Congress in Chile.

9. Headquarters officers believe it will be best to invite several big-name-speakers from Europe, probably from France and Italy. This will lend prestige and experienced guidance to the Congress.

10. ODACID has arranged anti-Communist kits for the Caracas delegates. Headquarters thinks it may be possible to procure some of these kits for the Mexico Congress and some study will be made of the security aspects of using the same kits as used in Caracas.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN PREPARATION FOR CONGRESS

1. Attractive brochures should be sent to all anti-Communist organizations throughout hemisphere. Organizations should not be allied with Peronist or other anti-U.S. elements. Believe that invitation of such elements will cause dissensions within Congress and in addition making Congress more vulnerable to old communist cry "fascist" -- a cry that is more frightening to many "liberal" elements than "communist". All political complexions should be invited -- conservative, center, liberal.
2. Brochures should contain purposes of meeting plus tentative agenda.
3. Letter of invitation should accompany brochure. Letter should solicit comments as to purposes and agenda. Ask for suggestions of items for agenda -- other ideas etc.
4. Follow-up letter stating emissaries will arrive at such and such a date to extend personal invitations and drum up publicity for meeting. Ask that anti-Communist group or groups depending on area arrange for press conferences - radio time - hiring of hall perhaps for lecture - challenge Communists to debate etc. -- again dependent upon area and amount anti-C.P. activity. The full treatment should be given in Chile, Brazil, Uruguay. Other countries vary.
5. Visit of emissaries to carry out no. 4.
6. Emissaries should leave behind them group that will continue to propagandize for the Congress -- money left behind or sent later. Emissaries will have good idea before leaving country who will attend Congress. [Assess delegates' capabilities and strong points -- to make maximum use of them at Congress.
7. Continued correspondence between Congress seat, Mexico and hemisphere concerning propaganda and preparations.
8. Letter to delegates notifying them of last minute arrangements and travel items -- all taken care of by Mexico.
9. Delegates leave for Congress
10. Propaganda continues throughout Hemisphere
11. Daily press releases exploited throughout Congress
12. Longer supplement items following Congress
13. Proceed with plans as outlined Lincoln.

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