

*Wash*

AIR

HGG-A-1016

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

MAY 4 1954

LINCOLN

Chief of Station, Guatemala [ ] INFO: Chief, WHD  
Operational

Request for Aid to Purchase Radio

Reference: GUAT 445

Attached for Lincoln and Headquarters is one copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr. Harold E. URIST, Public Affairs Officer, concerning the above subject and dated 30 April 1954. In view of the information contained in reference, no further action on this matter is contemplated by Station Guatemala.

Clara M. Healey

3 May 1954

CMH/cmh

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Mr. Krieg cc: [ ]

April 30, 1954

Harold E. Urist

Request for Embassy Aid to Purchase Radio Station

REF: My memorandum of February 12, 1954

I was visited today by Padre Roberto GONZALEZ of the Paulist Fathers, who had previously requested aid to set up a radio station which would be devoted to anti-Communist propaganda.

Padre González advised me that the radio station Voz de las Américas, which has been carrying his anti-Communist program La Vida Inmortal, had just notified him that the station had been purchased by a partnership of approximately five individuals (including José FLAMENCO y Coteró, director of Radio Giro's and an announcer for the government station TGW), and that the program contract would be cancelled as of May 1. Padre González said that the new owners were terminating the work contracts of all employees of the station and would start operation with completely new personnel. He said that the future political orientation of Voz de las Américas would undoubtedly be pro-Government and pro-Communist.

The Padre said that he was most anxious to have his own radio station, and had a wonderful opportunity to buy the equipment of the former Radio Setecientos which is no longer on the air. The owner of the equipment, Sr. Luis PUIG Montenegro, now assistant manager of Radio Internacional, has offered to sell the complete equipment and put the station in running order for \$5,000. Padre González said that he and his collaborators had been able to raise only \$2,500 and hoped the Embassy could help out with the remaining \$2,500 needed to make the purchase. He said that the nominal owner and director of the station would be Sr. Mario QUINTANA, advertising manager for Voz de las Américas.

I informed Padre González that, although I was certain that the Embassy could do nothing for him because it not only lacked the funds for such purposes but could not take part in a politically-oriented operation, I would inquire about the matter in the event that some non-Embassy person might be interested. He said he would return Monday morning, May 3.

HEUrist:rs

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