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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

CIA **HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM**
FROM: **RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

NO. **DD/P 1-23**
DATE

TO	DATE	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. DD/P	2003	22 23	28 ap.	[]	
2. DD/P file					
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107P 1-23

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Wisner

DATE: 22 April 1954

FROM : []

SUBJECT: Attached Memorandum

The letter which Representative Kersten wrote to Mr. Cutler regarding possible investigation of Communist operations in Guatemala was discussed by the members of the OCB with Mr. Cutler at their lunch meeting on 21 April. As a consequence, the attached memorandum to Mr. Koons on this subject was not sent.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
2003

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19 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. T. B. Koons
Special Staff
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Representative Kersten's Proposed Inquiry into
Communism in Guatemala

This is with reference to the memorandum which you sent me on April 16 to which was attached a copy of a letter which Mr. Cutler received from Congressman Kersten. In that letter Mr. Kersten wrote that it had been suggested that the House Select Committee on Communist Aggression, of which he is Chairman, undertake an investigation of Communist operations in Guatemala. Mr. Kersten said that his Committee has programmed some hearings in this country in May and expects to go to Europe during the month of June. Consequently, it would not be possible to conduct any hearings with respect to Guatemala until after that time, which presumably means July at the earliest. Mr. Kersten enclosed a proposed press release which would be issued if his Committee decided to undertake the investigation and he asked for Mr. Cutler's comments.

As I have told you, we would not want to have any comments which we might make relayed to Mr. Kersten as coming from us or otherwise have reference made to our interest in the subject. It is our reaction that it would not be desirable to have an announcement of a future investigation made at this time since no action to follow up the announcement could be taken for some three months. The proposed press release, while it refers particularly to Guatemala, says that the probe will cover "Communist aggression in Central America" and also refers to Latin America as a whole. An announcement in these terms would undoubtedly arouse great interest and speculation throughout Latin America. During the period between the announcement and any action by the House Committee, unfriendly propagandists would attempt to create hostility toward the investigation and might well establish a frame of mind in Latin America in which the investigation would be considered a unilateral interference in Latin American affairs, no matter how objectively and tactfully the investigation might subsequently be conducted.

JOB NO. _____ BOX NO. _____ FLD NO. _____ DOC. NO. 63 NO CHANGE
IN CLASS/DECLASS/CLASS CHANGED TO: TS S (C) RET. JUST. 22
NEXT REV DATE 89 REV DATE 10/01/79 REVIEWER [] TYPE DOC. 02
NO. PGS 2 CREATION DATE _____ ORG COMP 10 OR 40 ORG CLASS 5
REV CLASS _____ REV COORD. _____ AUTH: HR 70-2

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It is difficult to estimate the effects of such an investigation except in terms of details of its scope and the situation at the time when it is held. Mr. Cutler might wish to suggest to Mr. Kersten that since, at the Caracas Conference, the problem of Communist aggression in the Western Hemisphere has been actively raised through the established machinery for inter-American collaboration, and since the House Committee could not act for some months, it might be better to withhold an announcement and, in fact, a decision with regard to a Congressional investigation action until a later date, at which time it would be more nearly possible to evaluate the effect of such an investigation.

16 []

Special Assistant to the Director

SA/DCI []

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