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Subject: Mexican Leftist Help for Arbenz Regime

Date: 25 June 1954

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Subject: Mexican Leftist Help for
Arbenz Regime

Report No: [3] 728

Place Acquired: Mexico City

Date of Information: 18-23 June 1954

Evaluation: B-2

Date Acquired: 18-23 June 1954

Source: Various Marxists

Date of Report: 25 June 1954

1. Ever since the invasion of Guatemala by the rebel army of Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas, rumors have been circulating around Mexico City of Mexican Leftist elements sending aid to the ARBENZ regime and of the probable formation of a "Volunteer Brigade" to fight on the side of Colonel ARBENZ. Such rumors, while making good newspaper stories, are probably no more than just that. Of the Leftist elements in the Republic of Mexico only two political parties, the "Partido Popular" and the "Partido Comunista Mexicana", would be sufficiently strong to send any such aid to the ARBENZ regime. The only other Leftist parties worth mentioning in this respect would be the "Partido Obrero-Campesino Mexicano" and the "Union General de Obreros y Campesinos Mexicanos". It is highly doubtful whether either of these parties would attempt to do anything in this direction without the direct support of either the Partido Popular (PP) or the Partido Comunista Mexicana (PCM). Certainly, if they should attempt such a step alone, they would get absolutely nowhere. Thus, the only two parties worth considering at the moment are the PP and the PCM. As the following paragraphs will show, it is extremely unlikely that either of these parties will attempt to form a "Volunteer Brigade" in order to fight for the ARBENZ regime. On the other hand, it is almost a certainty that both the PP and the PCM will mount strong propaganda campaigns attacking the United States and praising the ARBENZ regime.

2. The position of the PP has already been made quite clear. It is the opinion of Vicente LOMBARDO Toledano that the ARBENZ regime has all the manpower it needs, and that what it needs very badly is weapons. Since neither the PP nor the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL) is in a position to furnish arms to the ARBENZ regime, it is almost a certainty that no direct help will come from these organizations. As a matter of fact, LOMBARDO has categorically come out against the sending of any "Volunteer Brigade". Instead, LOMBARDO, in conjunction with his PP and CTAL leaders, has decided to mobilize all efforts in an all-out propaganda campaign. This campaign is to be violently anti-U.S. and pro-ARBENZ. As this campaign will be controlled and master-minded by LOMBARDO, it might very well prove to be effective in some quarters.

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Certainly, money will not be lacking, as it will be furnished through World Federation of Trade Union (WFTU) channels, and PP and CTAL membership is sufficiently strong to ensure some success. The PP will handle this propaganda campaign inside Mexico, while the CTAL will guide it throughout the rest of Latin America. Definite plans to this effect have already been convened to discuss this matter fully.

3. The PCM, under Dionisio ENCINA, presents a different picture. One of its top leaders, Manuel TERRAZAS, came out with a personal statement that the PCM would try to form a "Volunteer Brigade" and send it to Guatemala. However, shortly after he made this statement the PCM Political Commission convened (21 June 1954) and severely reprimanded TERRAZAS for "coming out with such a premature statement". As of this date, it is not yet known what the Political Commission has decided to do, if anything. However, the indications are that it will not attempt to form a "Volunteer Brigade" at present. However, even if it should form such a "Volunteer Brigade", it doubted that it could muster more than a few hundred men at the very most. As the PCM has no financial means to speak of, it is doubtful if it could scrape enough money together to send such a "Brigade" to the Guatemalan border. It is furthermore very doubtful whether or not the Mexican Government would allow them to cross the frontier into Guatemala. Thus, it appears very unlikely that even the PCM will attempt to form a "Volunteer Brigade" to send to the aid of the ARBENZ regime. However, it is very probable that the Political Commission will decide to embark the PCM on an all-out anti-U.S. and pro-ARBENZ propaganda campaign. This will not be a novelty for the PCM, however, as it has been harping on "Yankee imperialism" for years.

4. The present situation in Mexico with respect to Leftist support of the ARBENZ regime can be summed up as follows:

First, it is highly unlikely that Leftist elements will try to form a "Volunteer Brigade". Second, a concentrated and somewhat violent propaganda campaign can be expected in very short order. This propaganda campaign will be directed against the United States and will be strongly in favor of the ARBENZ regime. Among other things, it will very probably accuse the United States of:

- a) Planning and directing the invasion of Guatemala by the rebels.
- b) Of financing the rebels and of furnishing them with arms.
- c) Of direct intervention by the United Fruit Company, and its furnishing American technicians and pilots to the rebels.
- d) Agitation for the United States to be accused of indirect intervention and aggression in Guatemala before the United Nations Organization.

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