

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

SECRET/RYPAT

Routing Form

Doc. No.: [ ]

Date: 9 JUN 1954

Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments there under by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action completed and ready for filing. This cover-sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

4/0  
C/PP  
w/w

[ ]

The nonsense in PARA 6 should be combatted - Pure P/I thinking. ~~Since~~ Pecunia non olet.

[ ]

Exec

I don't believe that LINCOLN has any business to intervene in this matter. Moreover, I consider the criticism as a whole well taken. An unknown organization approaching a group in a far-away country ought to give some sort of character references in its first communication. More important, the offer to pay all expenses should never be made in a farm letter. The first communication might only say "If you have financial difficulties, let us know -- perhaps we find a way .."

[ ]

C/PP

My interest was this - there is always a disposition to drop enterprises because they have little flaws. Hence the comment. I'll be quiet now.

[ ]

[ ]

9 June



PT-181 280

~~SECRET~~

Air

[ ]-701

4 JUN 1954

Chief, WED

10 May 1954

[ ]

~~INSP~~ [ ]  
Lincoln

UNKNOWN Matters

Congreso Contra la Intervención Soviética en la  
América Latina

1. The following analysis of the reaction to the receipt of the invitation from the subject organization by the [ ] committee is furnished for Headquarters' information and guidance in future operations of a similar type.
2. The first letter announcing the Congress together with the invitation and descriptive material was received by [ ] from Mexico on 28 April. The first reaction of the committee, who are all unwitting except for two ~~PRISON~~ agents, was one of extreme pleasure. They were particularly happy to receive this letter as it indicated that the committee is now getting international recognition. One weak point appeared, however, when one or two of the committee members mentioned that the committee address had not been given any publicity and they wondered how the Mexican organization had heard about them. This appears to be an oversight on the part of the [ ] and the [ ] in forwarding the address to [ ] without checking this matter. [ ] covered up by saying that probably [ ] had advised the Mexican organization about them. Accordingly, a cable was forwarded to Headquarters from the [ ] on 6 May requesting Headquarters to ask [ ] to write a letter to the committee explaining that he had taken the liberty of forwarding its address to Mexico.
3. Several general discussions were held about this letter, but the committee has decided not to send a representative to Mexico and on 29 April wrote to the Congress, thanking them for the invitation but informing them that [ ] could not attend because of the impending inaugural parade which is to take place on 27 May. However, to give publicity to the congress the literature forwarded with the first letter was taken to the editor of the Bogotá newspaper, La República, and he was urged to give it wide publicity.
4. During the first few days in May a second letter was received from Mexico advising that the Mexican organization would pay for the transportation expenses of three delegates. The committee's first reaction

~~SECRET~~

JUN 1954

~~SECRET~~

[ ]-701

10 May 1954

page 2

was that it should not at its very start indebt itself to another organization. However, several members soon manifested an interest in attending this congress but because of the parade it was decided that the invitation would be given to a prominent anti-Communist in the city. Accordingly, two men from [ ] approached the editor of La República with the invitation at which time they asked him whether he had read the material left beforehand and when he was going to publish it. He said that the material looked good but that he was not certain of the bona fides of the Mexican organization, adding that this appeared to be a manner in which regular Communist front organizations worked. He advised the committee to take no action until the bona fides of the Congress could be determined and that he would not print anything until the receipt of such information. These remarks sobered the enthusiasm of the committee members and they began to wonder about the legitimacy of the congress. Consequently they decided to send a cable on 4 May to the Cardinal in Mexico informing him that they had received the invitation and requesting his advice as to the advisability of attending. A reply has not yet been received.

5. The editor of La República brought up an interesting point. He examined both Mexican letters quite carefully and pointed out that the offer to pay the expenses of three delegates was on a form letter with just the name filled in at the top. He said the sponsoring organization must be extremely wealthy if it was inviting delegates from all over Latin America at its expense, drawing this inference from the fact that the invitation was on a form letter. This aroused his suspicions as to the legitimacy of the sponsoring organization. The committee members discussed this at length and they too were amazed at the amount of money it would take to send delegates from all Latin America to Mexico to attend this congress.
6. It may be that the [ ] members are overly cautious, but it is hoped that the information may be of some value in avoiding similar weaknesses in future Headquarters operations. [ ] will offer the invitation to Dr. Luis BERNAL, prominent Catholic lay worker in Bogotá and owner of Noticias Cathólicas as soon as some confirming word is received from the Mexican Cardinal.
7. DIR 45791 informed [ ] that two representatives of the congress were scheduled to arrive in Bogotá on 25 April. Apparently one of these men arrived here on 3 May as the 9 May editions of La República and Diario Gráfico devoted prominent space to publicity for the congress.

10 May 1954

Distribution:  
Headquarters: 3  
[ ]: 1  
Lincoln : 1

~~SECRET~~

17-124-34