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TO: ARA - Mr. John Crimmins October 1, 1970
FROM: ARA - George Lister
SUBJECT: ARA/LA and the International Police Academy

About a month ago I visited the International Police Academy (IPA) to receive what I assume was a standard briefing for officers departing for the field. The principal official included was a newly appointed AID Mission Director for Latin America. I went along at Byron Engle's invitation, for one reason because he has urged me repeatedly to visit the IPA and I had always thought I was too "busy" (even though I have been a strong supporter of the police training program ever since Covey Oliver asked me to ride herd on facilitating ARA/LA cooperation with OPS).

In all candor I was most favorably impressed by what I saw and heard during the visit. The briefing was well delivered, in low key and without any obvious attempt to "sell" a well packaged "product". I am no expert on these matters but it seemed clear to me that a good deal of effort, thought, expertise and intelligent good will have been devoted to making the IPA an extremely efficient instrument for helping to develop modern, relatively civilized police forces. And I fully sympathize with the OPS objective of persuading other countries to maintain order with well trained, respected police units, indoctrinated to protect the citizenry with a minimum of force, rather than using unpopular military and/or police with a tradition of all-out repression, corruption, etc.

One incident during the visit did give me pause, however. While we were being shown through the simulated games room, our guide explained how the participants trying to handle a mock riot or revolution have at their disposal various fictitious facilities, squad cars, tear gas, police units, etc., for allocation on the map of the

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By cbm, NARA, Date 12-8-06

"capital city". These they flash on the map in response to, or in anticipation of, developments and situations suddenly injected into the "game" by other participants. At about this point our guide remarked that, for example, the students might be swarming out of the university and headed for the capitol. Or the port workers might be coming up another avenue, towards the same destination. "Do the good guys always win?", asked the AID Director. No, said the guide, it was sometimes necessary to call in the army and air force. I am certain that an average U.S. or Latin American liberal or leftist without extensive knowledge of our policies and objectives would have taken that exchange as absolute proof of our desire to maintain the status quo abroad.

Later on I asked our guide whether the police training program was open to all countries. He replied that it was. I asked whether the Soviet Union could participate. The guide said only Free World countries could send their police. When I inquired whether the program was available to South Africa and Haiti, for example, the guide responded "of course". We then had a brief friendly discussion about whether it is always the "good guys" who are on the side of law and order.

Dave Powell was present throughout and I have discussed the foregoing with him at some length. We both ended up feeling that perhaps the IPA program could benefit from more political guidance, and that the Department may have been delinquent in that respect. That is often the case with U.S. Government programs, of course, in contrast to the Communist countries where the Party goes far over to the other extreme with a "parallel" structure carefully controlling every organization of the least significance.

I am well aware of the complexity of the problem of teaching proper maintenance of law and order without opposing, or seeming to oppose, the attainment of

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legitimate popular aspirations. Possibly there is nothing more that can or should be done by ARA/LA to reduce confusion and misunderstanding on that score. All I suggest at the moment is that, if you have no objection, I discuss this subject with Byron Engle with the thought of a possible review of the IPA program from that viewpoint.

Dave preferred that I not write this memorandum before discussing the matter with Byron, particularly since I was going to send the latter a copy. At first I agreed with Dave's opinion, but on reflection I have decided to send this to you alone, to make certain there is no objection to my talking with Byron on this subject. As you know, I am on very good terms with him. All I would like to do for the time being is to educate myself as to the IPA syllabus, its political content if any, etc.

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