

Ward Tapes

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : ARA/ECP - Joseph A. Silberstein                      DATE: September 28, 1966

FROM : ARA/ECP - Samuel L. Myers

SUBJECT: Comments on George Lister's Paper, "Communism in Latin America".

Joe, because of my background in education I consider few trusts more sacred than that of promoting trust among youngsters. I note that the Lister paper is presented in the form of a 15-minute record for about 400 U. S. high schools and colleges. Since this will be done tomorrow I doubt that there will be opportunity for any major revision. Nevertheless, after making the specific comments you called for, I shall take the liberty of making more extended remarks.

## 1. Specific Comments.

- (a) The U. S. official presenting this paper might wish to soften his statement that appears to emphasize the lack of success of the Alliance for Progress. The Statement at the top of page 13 reads: "There have been, of course, many short-comings in the implementation of the Alliance for Progress by every government involved including our own ...."
- (b) Similarly, the writer might wish to clarify the statement beginning at the bottom of page 16: "Many times our efforts are unsuccessful; usually they are only partially successful. There is much criticism in Latin America of our performance. Some of this criticism is informed, objective, and constructive, and some of which is prejudiced, malicious and based entirely on misinformation."
- (c) The statement that the Alliance is a "serious and constructive effort to help Latin Americans help themselves ...." should probably be revised to stress that the Alliance is primarily a Latin American effort or at least a partnership between Latin America and the U. S.



2. General Comments.

You may judge from the fact that I have made only three minor specific comments, that in general I consider the paper to be innocuous . However, I also feel that the paper missed an opportunity to convey some more fundamental truths to an important audience.

- (a) Given the fact that the speaker has only 15 minutes, he should have, in my opinion, eliminated the discussion on pages 1 and 2 on differences among Latin American countries.
- (b) The problem of Communism in Latin America is a potential problem for the Caribbean also. Therefore, the speaker could have saved valuable time by not making this exception on page 2.
- (c) Not all who cry out against social and economic injustice in Latin America are Communists. This idea discussed by the writer in making a distinction between leftists and communists is one that in my opinion is worthy of emphasis. Indeed as he has noted, the major objective of the Alliance for Progress is to attack these underlying ills in Latin America and by so doing incidentally <sup>to</sup> counteract the threat of Communism.

As President Johnson has dramatized in calling the Alliance for Progress a peaceful, democratic social revolution, a change resulting in bloodshed, destruction and tyranny potentially exists in Latin America. In brief, it is proper to emphasize that all who protest against current conditions in Latin America should not be labeled generically as Communist.

- (d) Nevertheless, it should be stressed that without becoming hysterical, we should recognize realistically that there is a serious threat of Communism in Latin America. Increasingly communists have become highly sophisticated, resourceful, ingenious and energetic in attempting to subvert and undermine free government in Latin America.

- (e) In light of the foregoing the U. S. has made clear that it stands ready to come to the assistance of any government in Latin America, that is the victim of Communist aggression from outside.
- (f) In addition the U. S. is seeking to bolster the expertise of Latin American governments to detect and cope with Communist subversion.
- (g) Similarly, the U. S. is making a concerted effort to strengthen inter-American institutions.

Most important, as the writer also has indicated, the U. S. is seeking to promote freedom and democracy and to establish social justice together with economic progress with the view that a free prosperous people would never willingly accept Communism. In connection with the foregoing, it will be observed that the Alliance for Progress is based on the concept of human freedom, social justice and economic progress. Moreover, the Alliance for Progress, is basically a Latin American effort in which the U. S. cooperates as a partner. The establishment of the inter-American Committee for the Alliance for Progress (CIAP) suggests that the U. S. is determined that the Alliance for Progress should remain basically a Latin American effort.