

CONFIDENTIAL

July 29, 1965

Bob:

The following are some thoughts on our brief conversation.

1) The present slot was purposely created as the one which would provide the best chance for applying an activist approach to the problem of Communism in Latin America (job description attached). That is, instead of handling the usual problems arising out of clearly specified areas and functions, the officer seeks possibilities in every field and country for reducing Communist power and influence. The slot stands a little outside regular ARA channels and organization charts, and avoids the formal, orthodox approach. It should provide ready access to the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary if a real contribution is to be made. The officer should work quietly, attend meetings (LAPC, ARA Staff, ad hoc groups on the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, etc.), listen to the experts, read a lot of material, have as many useful contacts as possible, and then propose ways of hurting the Communists and stopping them from hurting us. When the proposals are accepted, the officer may help in implementation. If the proposal is rejected, the matter is dropped.

2) The activist approach is simple, direct, hard-nosed and persistent. First, there are opportunities which do not come within anyone's purview (see sample output in attached group 1). Secondly, it may be possible to improve day to day political warfare against the Communists (attached group 2). Third, greater correlation in our efforts in one country and another may be beneficial (group 3).

2) Much can be accomplished over the long run by working quietly, by trying to do useful things with a minimum of fuss and fanfare, and by keeping things as simple, streamlined and uncomplicated as possible. At the same time, of course, all action should be carefully cleared and coordinated with everyone involved, and care should be taken to avoid stepping on toes. Thus far, things have gone well and there have been no problems of control or of any other kind.

Glister

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5
 NJJ/LIS 06-86
 By SJ, NARA, Date 11-11-07

CONFIDENTIAL