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Mexico

11 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with ⁰⁵Francisco Aguirre at ⁰⁵Aguirre's home, late afternoon of 10 August.

1. ⁰⁵Aguirre said he had recently returned from a ten day visit to Mexico City and had visited with Foreign Minister Manuel Tello. Tello said that Mexico will be in a very difficult position at the coming OAS meeting. That although Mexico could take a strong stand against Cuba it will not do so. That Mexico would only go so far as to say that solidarity in the Western Hemisphere is essential; that the countries in Latin America should be aware of the Communist dangers; that intervention is a serious danger and that the OAS take whatever action it can when necessary in order to avoid a country from intervening in the affairs of another. ⁰⁵Aguirre said he then told Tello that Cuba could not be overlooked as it was a serious problem. Tello countered by saying that the Cuban situation and Dominican question should not be confused in the over-all panorama. Further, that the business interests of the United States in Cuba were not a proper matter of discussion at the OAS but that this problem should be presented before the International Court at The Hague as the OAS is not set up to handle such problems. Tello said that it would be a mistake for the United States to refer to the Caracas resolution on Communism in the OAS. Tello said that the situation in Mexico has changed so much recently that he himself is in danger because he is considered as too much of a middle-of-the-roader, and is looking for an assignment as an Ambassador abroad so he can leave the country. ⁰⁵Aguirre said that his impressions of Mexico on this trip were that in the last forty-five days Lopez Mateos has lost considerable ground and that General Lazaro Cardenas is getting stronger and if the trend continues, Lazaro Cardenas will, in a short time, emerge as the strong man in Mexico.

2. ⁰⁵Aguirre said that Argentine Ambassador to the United States del Carril told him previous to leaving for San Francisco that Argentina is watching Cuba only in as much as the Cuban situation affects Argentina because of the presence in Cuba of certain well known Peronistas and also Che Guevara. Del Carril added that the general over-all Cuban problem is viewed by Argentina with the same coolness which the United States deals with the problem of Antarctica.

3. ⁰⁵ [Aguirre] showed me a letter postmarked Monte Carlo and written by Pedro Estrada. In the letter Estrada said that Peron is the only one of the Peronista leaders who opposes the Cubans. However, since he is outnumbered he has agreed to ally himself with Castro. Estrada said that this information came from Forfirio Rubirosa who he had seen recently in Monte Carlo at the restaurant El Pirata and Rubirosa said that he had been working on Peron to make this alliance. Rubirosa said that the apparent disagreement between Trujillo and Castro is only a facade. That actually Trujillo and Castro have joined together in a secret alliance which has been forged by their mutual hate for Betancourt and because both feel that the United States ⁰⁵ and may destroy both of them. Rubirosa said that after the O/S meeting there will be a united front of Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

4. At this point ⁰⁵ [Aguirre] said he wished to give me some advice. That being that under no circumstances should leaders of the FKD establish themselves in Mexico City. That he had had information to the effect that if Varona et al do come to Mexico they will be under constant surveillance and at the proper time, Cardenas will give the word to have them arrested; they will be jailed; their plans exposed, and the FKD in Mexico will be destroyed.

5. ⁰⁵ [Aguirre] said the Cuban intelligence service in Washington is very active. It has a great deal of money and operates in Washington under the direction of Enrique Rodriguez Loeches, Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington; and Commander Jose Moleon, Cuban Military Attache. This led ⁰⁵ [Aguirre] to volunteer the name of the person whom he said was in charge of Vatican intelligence in Washington. He said it is Magr. Pio Laghi, who is known as the auditor for the apostolic delegation and who has served several years in Latin America.

6. I wondered what ulterior motive, if any, ⁰⁵ [Aguirre] had in asking to see me so urgently to pass on the above, and tried to do a little probing. As far as I could see, if he had an ulterior motive, it was a suggestion he made that the appropriate Cuban exiles do more broadcasting and give more publicity to the wrongs of the Castro regime. I asked him how this could be done, and he said that one way it could be done was by using his newspaper ⁰⁸ [Diario las Americas]. He said that at present he sends anywhere from four hundred to twenty-five hundred copies of the newspaper daily to Havana, depending upon the particular publication and that he could start having editorials published which would be unpalatable to Castro and which would undoubtedly cause the Cuban Government to prohibit the entry of the ⁰⁸ [Diario] into Cuba. Then the ⁰⁸ [Diario] would start broadcasting from Miami into Cuba and say that these broadcasts were being payed for by prominent Cuban exiles.

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7. [Aguirre] said he was leaving for New York the morning of 11 August, then go to Miami and return Saturday. In Miami he could be reached at PLasa [7-7368] or T Uredo [8-4163]. 08 Aguirre also said that he hoped to be in Costa Rica during the OAS conference.

03 COMMENT: In my dealings with [Aguirre] over the past two years and [Jim Noel]'s which go back much longer, to the best of my knowledge he has always played an honest game with us. Since he has numerous, well-placed contacts in Latin American diplomatic circles, I think it would be to our benefit to have [Aguirre] put in touch with [Rastetter] if he goes to San José for the OAS conference. 05 Aguirre is very close to Pepe Figueres. Figueres knows who [Rastetter] is and it would not surprise me if he has not already told [Aguirre] who [Rastetter] is. 05 In view of this, and the fact that [Aguirre] up until now has proved secure, I recommended to Col. King that [Rastetter]'s name be given to [Aguirre] and he agreed. 03

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