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937.61/5-1354

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : EMBASSY, HABANA 1381 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 13, 1954

REF : Embassy D-1322, April 30, 1954

1.5 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION * ARA-5	DEPT. OCR/R-2	CLI-6	EUR/X-1	P-1
	REC'D 5/15	OTHER CIA-7	USIA-10	ARMY-3	NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Effects of Cuban Leaders' Call in Defense of United States Against Attacks From Hemispheric Communists and Leftists.

The manifesto issued by a group of Cuban cultural leaders calling for hemispheric unity behind the United States in the fight against international Communism (see reference despatch) has been followed by others in a similar vein and seems in other ways as well to be accomplishing its purpose of awakening public opinion to the dangers of confused thinking and unclear definition in the present international situation.

On May 4 El Mundo carried a declaration by the National Executive Committee of the Association of Normal School and Similarly Qualified Teachers (Colegio de Maestros Normales y Equiparados) "addressed", in the words of the declaration, "to all the people of Cuba to the end that they do not lend themselves to the divisive campaign directed by the Soviet Union, which pursues no other object than undermining the unity of the peoples of America and the United States." (Clippings enclosed.) The declaration recognizes that the systems of the West have their imperfections but condemns in strong terms "the system of oppression, vassalage, and fear which through force reigns in the nations subject to the Soviet Union."

There appeared in Prensa Libre for May 5 (clippings enclosed) an editorial, "With Uncle Sam and Against His Enemies," which while making no mention of the manifesto was in all probability inspired by it. The editorial stresses what the United States has sacrificed for Europe in the last fifteen years, deplores the attitude towards our country so prevalent there today, and invoking the memory of San Juan Hill, concludes: "With the United States and against her enemies, who are ours: such must be our slogan, now and always."

On May 7 the papers reported a declaration by civic leaders of Santa Clara Province, chiefly intellectuals, in the same spirit as the original manifesto and in many ways its echo (clippings attached). The declaration also adduced the values

Juan de Zengotita:ep
REPORTER

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of western civilization, censured muddle-headedness in judging the present situation, and called for a firm alignment behind the United States.

Most gratifying was an anti-Communist resolution passed by the Third Congress of Secondary School Students, which was sponsored by, and whose resolutions had to receive the "Visto Bueno" of, the University Student Federation (FEU). Though passage of the resolution was reported by the press, it did not give details. However, the resolution seems to have made no reference to the United States but rejected Communism outright as opposed to Cuban ideals.

In its issue for May 9 Bohemia devoted its center pages to the original solidarity manifesto and to another "For a Full Defense of Democracy," issued by a group of intellectuals, headed by Jorge MANACH (clippings attached). Several of his fellow signers were connected with the University of Habana, including the Ortodoxo leader Roberto AGRAMONTE. This manifesto also rejects Communism outright. But a suspicion may reasonably arise that its main purpose is to defend those who espouse causes such as that of Guatemala from the charge of being Communist dupes by arguing that there is a danger of blinding oneself to just causes and reform by concentrating too single-mindedly on the Communist threat. There is praise for the United States in the manifesto but also a vague allusion to anti-Communist hysteria and a more definite reference to "certain" economic interests.

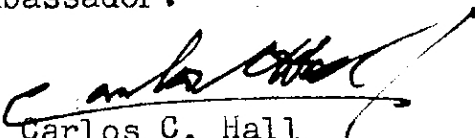
The best possible commentary on the Mañach manifesto was contained in a feature article from Diario de la Marina for May 9 (clippings attached) written by Francisco ICHASO, who, it will be recalled, was the initiator of the original manifesto. Ichaso's article is entitled "Clarifications and Reservations." After bringing out the manner in which the fall of Dien Bien Phu throws light on the entire question being discussed, Ichaso welcomes the manifesto printed in Bohemia as a salutary clarification. He points out that it is not signed by certain persons (meaning certain known Communists and fellow travelers) whose names had been mixed with those of some of its signers in the "accusatory allegation against the United States . . . published on the eve of the Caracas Conference." (Presumably the statement of the Pro-Guatemala Committee forwarded in despatch No. 1130 of March 18, 1954.) He brings out that the Bohemia declaration represents the clarification that the original manifesto called for. He defends the United States against charges of responsibility for dictatorial regimes, pointing out that some of those regimes consolidated their power in spite of the "frank hostility" of Washington. He ends by referring to the way in which the Communists in the French National Assembly had refused to stand up in mourning at the news of the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

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The only adverse comment as yet to appear on the manifesto has come from the newspaper Tiempo. On May 4 it carried an article (clippings attached) headed "Apprentices of McCarthyism", and written by Rolando MASFERRER. It displays its author's abusive style and is further evidence of his eagerness to seize every opportunity for an attack on the United States. It is perhaps significant and complimentary to the manifesto that Masferrer does not choose to address himself direct to any of the points it made. On May 8 the paper had an even more scurrilous and insubstantial article by Julio CASTELLO Dumas against the Prensa Libre editorial mentioned above.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please pass a copy of this despatch, together with a set of clippings, to USIA, Washington.

For the Ambassador:


Carlos C. Hall
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures

Clippings:

El Mundo, 5/4
Prensa Libre, 5/5
Diario de la Marina, 5/7
Bohemia, 5/9
Diario de la Marina, 5/9
Tiempo, 5/4

MAY 13 1954

Condenan los Maestros Campaña Contra E. U.

Piden al Pueblo no Preste Atención a las Prédicas Rusas. Quieren Minar la Unidad

• El Comité Ejecutivo Nacional del Colegio de Maestros Normales y Equiparados ha suscrito un documento público por el cual condena la campaña contra los Estados Unidos.

El Colegio Nacional de Maestros Normales y Equiparados —dice la declaración— se dirige a todo el pueblo de Cuba, para que no se preste a la campaña divisionista dirigida por la Unión Soviética, la cual no persigue otro objetivo que minar la unión entre los pueblos de la América y los Estados Unidos.

He aquí el texto completo del documento:

"Dos grandes potencias internacionales se disputan, en este momento, difícil para la humanidad,

el predominio de todos los pueblos de la tierra.

"De una parte los Estados Unidos seguidos por un conjunto de pueblos libres donde, a pesar de todas sus imperfecciones, predomina la democracia y la libertad; de la otra parte la Unión Soviética con un conglomerado de estados vasallos donde impera la más implacable dictadura y el hombre no es, nada más que una pieza al servicio del Estado Policia.

"El Colegio Nacional de Maestros Normales y Equiparados, ante la disyuntiva de decidirse por la Unión Soviética o por los Estados Unidos de la América del Norte, opta por colocarse junto a éstos.

(Termina en la Página A-4, Col. 4)

Condenan...

(Continuación de la Primera Página)

"No dejamos de reconocer que el sistema político-económico predominante en las democracias no es perfecto; pero es mejor, y preferible, que el sistema de opresión, vasallaje y temor que por medio de la fuerza rige en los pueblos sometidos a la Unión Soviética.

"El Colegio Nacional de Maestros Normales y Equiparados se dirige a todo el pueblo de Cuba para que no se preste a la campaña divisionista dirigida por la Unión Soviética, la cual no persigue otro objetivo que minar la unión entre los pueblos de la América y los Estados Unidos.

"Para el Colegio Nacional de Maestros Normales y Equiparados la democracia es algo fundamental y sabemos que los Estados Unidos constituyen un bastión inexpugnable para su defensa.

"El pueblo de Cuba por sus costumbres, tradiciones y herencia espiritual, no podría soportar un partido político único, una sola prensa y radio dirigidas por el Estado, la falta de libertad de palabra, el no poder trasladarse libremente de un lugar a otro de la República, el no poder salir ni entrar libre de trabas del territorio nacional y, sobre todo, el vivir bajo el temor constante de ser una nueva víctima del régimen que no perdona ni a sus más fieles servidores".