



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1966

TO : ARA/IAS - George T. Lister  
FROM : P/MS - <sup>WAB</sup>William Bradford (Ext. 2645 or 5223)  
SUBJECT : Taping session for Washington Tapes

In accordance with our telephone conversation today, I have told Washington Tapes that you are willing to discuss the following questions for a fifteen-minute educational tape recording:

Communism in Latin America

How widespread is it?  
What is Castro's influence? Russia's? China's?  
Is it Russian or Italian or Chinese Communism or is it indigenous to South America?  
Does the political stability of a country affect Communist activities?  
What is the OAS doing to combat Communism?  
What are we doing to prevent its spread?  
How do the South American countries react to our efforts?

You will indicate when your schedule permits you to make this recording.

COMMUNISM IN LATIN AMERICA

Any 15 minute discussion of the subject of "Communism in Latin America" must be limited to generalities. Therefore, it would be well to emphasize at the very outset how misleading and superficial such generalities can be in treating a subject as complex as this. First of all, there are approximately 240,000,000 people living in the 20 countries of Latin America discussed here. No two of these countries are identical, of course, and some are totally different from others. What a contrast, for example, between the history and way of life of the Dominican Republic and Chile, or of Haiti and Mexico! Furthermore, there are enormous differences inside each country, differences which are probably more profound and startling than any which can be found inside the United States. Rio de Janeiro is one of the great cosmopolitan harbors of the world, with many miles of modern architecture, and in the interior of Brazil, thousands of miles up the Amazon River, there are aborigines who still live the life of prehistoric man. Lima is a proud center of intellectual and cultural life, with a university established a century before our own first university, Harvard, and yet millions of Peruvian Indians, the

Indians, the descendants of the Incas, still live well outside the mainstream of the national life of that country. Many of them do not even speak Spanish.

You already know these facts, of course. I mention them here only to remind you of how vast and complex and paradoxical an area we are discussing when we refer to "Latin America".

One other point of clarification. The following discussion refers only to the 19 Latin American countries which are members of the Organization of American States, plus Cuba. Our discussion does not include the recently established independent state of Guyana (former British Guiana), which is a member of the British Commonwealth, nor does it include Jamaica, the French islands of Guadeloupe, Martinique, etc. This qualification has some significance, because the Communists are certainly active in some of these other areas.

We should also make clear at the very outset exactly what we mean by Communists and Communist movements. We do not include here all leftists; many Latin American leftists are not Communists, and some are anti-Communist. There are many non-Communist political and intellectual groups in Latin America which are urging and seeking profound and sweeping economic and

economic and social changes. When we refer to Communists in this discussion we mean only those persons who are actually members of Communist parties or who at least regard themselves as Communists. It is useful to emphasize and remember this definition because there is much confusion and fuzzy thinking on this point, and many Latin Americans tend to believe that we pin the Communist label on anyone who supports revolutionary change, or who is critical of United States policies. This is simply untrue. Let me emphasize, we realize full well that the majority of Latin Americans who think of themselves as leftists are not Communists. Unfortunately for the purposes and convenience of our discussion, it is not always easy to determine whether a party should be designated as Communist or not. But in most cases it is not too difficult to distinguish between a Communist and non-Communist party.

So much for these few introductory remarks of clarification on our subjects, Latin America and Communism.

Now what about present Communist strength in Latin America, and what are Communist chances for the future? Of course, only one of the 20 Latin American countries, Cuba, is under Communist control at present. In some countries, such as Chile and



























