

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: October 31, 1960

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Alberto SARRIA M.
Mr. Jaime BAQUERO SANZ
Mr. John Barta

SUBJECT: Group of Colombian Professional Men Request U.S.
Assistance in Formation Anti-Communist Organization

On October 31, I was visited by a Colombian named Alberto SARRIA M., age 29 years. He gave his office address as Avenida 28, No. 22-30 and 22-32; telephone: 45-05-11. Mr. Sarria stated that he is a lawyer and that he is a member of a group of about ten professional men who are alarmed by the inroads of Communism in Colombia, especially among the intellectuals, and want to do something about it. He stated that his group had a specific plan of action which he would be happy to discuss at length. He stated that in general his group hopes to promote the distribution of anti-Communist propaganda and to create an informal "spy" network which would inform this Embassy and the Colombian Government of what was going on among the extremist elements in Colombia. He stated that his group had good contacts and could obtain worthwhile information. When asked if he had contacted the Colombian Government regarding his "spy" proposal, he replied in the negative.

Mr. Sarria stated that his group did not have the economic resources to undertake the propaganda program they had in mind and asked if the U.S. Government could supply a monthly sum to assist their group. When I asked Mr. Sarria what amount of money he felt his group needed monthly, he was unable to state even an approximate amount. I continued that while I appreciated the anti-Communist attitude of Mr. Sarria, I did not believe that financial assistance would be possible since it would not be proper for the Embassy to involve itself in and support an organization of the nature proposed. I also questioned the effectiveness of a group that would be supported by U.S. Government funds if such financial support became known outside the group. I stated that I would, however, discuss the matter with my chief upon his return to Colombia, and on a later date would be happy to explain to Mr. Sarria my chief's views.

On Wednesday, November 2, 1960, Mr. Sarria returned to the Embassy, this time in the company of a young man, a Mr. Jaime BAQUERO Sanz, who stated that he is a lawyer, a former Secretary General or Private Secretary of the Minister of Justice from

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

1954 to 1955, and is the Rector Founder of the "Institutos Technicos Unidos", an organization with offices on Carrera 10, No. 22-79, 3rd Floor. Mr. Sarria handed me the two typewritten documents attached which purport to explain the group's program and objectives. These documents reveal that the group calls itself the Acción Civil Anti-Comunista. After a brief private conversation with Mr. Vaky, I talked with the visitors, indicating to them again my doubts that any financial assistance could be granted, and that Mr. Vaky expressed these same doubts. When asked how long ago they got the idea of creating this organization, they replied that they started thinking about it a year ago. To indicate the bipartisanship of their group, Mr. Baquero told me that he is a Conservative and that Mr. Sarria is a Liberal. I told them that Mr. Vaky would be unable to see them today, but that if either or both of them wished to return on Monday, Mr. Vaky would be happy to talk with them. They replied that both of them would return Monday.

Enclosure:

1. Puntos Del Programa
2. Motivos Del Programa

JMBarta:jnp
Nov. 3, 1960.

CONFIDENTIAL