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21 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE:

FROM: Winston M. Scott

SUBJECT: Visit with ⁰¹LITENSOR

*Mann
(10 file)*

1. On 21 November 1961 I met with ⁰¹LITENSOR at 1100 hours and took up three topics which I had been requested to discuss with him by Ambassador Mann.

2. The results briefly were:

a. Concerning the agrarian question, ⁰¹LITENSOR said that he would prefer to discuss this matter personally with Ambassador Mann prior to Ambassador Mann's having any discussions with his Ministers. He suggested that Ambassador Mann and he meet "next week" as soon as possible after he returns from a visit to Chihuahua to dedicate a railroad. He asked that this meeting be a secret one and be arranged through me and that the Foreign Office not be made aware of Ambassador Mann's call on him. ⁰⁸

b. Concerning the Frente Civico Mexicano, ⁰¹LITENSOR said that he would prefer that U. S. businessmen not give money to this or any other anti-Communist group in Mexico. In particular, he said he feared that this group would get involved in internal political affairs in Mexico and he thought internal politics was the business of Mexicans and that Americans should not get themselves involved. He suggested that Ambassador Mann tell U. S. businessmen who wish to make a contribution to the Frente that they could better help Mexico by investing in private enterprises in Mexico which would help to raise the standard of living in Mexico and thereby would fight Communism. When I told him that I would

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personally give his blessing to the Frente he said, with a straight face, that he gave his blessing to any group of Mexicans which lawfully wished to organize in Mexico for this was a democracy. He added, however, that he feared that the Frente was getting ready to put up a candidate for President and that Americans, including the Ambassador, could be embarrassed if they found themselves involved in this matter.

c. Concerning the question of the Colombian proposal which the Ambassador asked him to consider, [LITENSOR] 01 said we are late in making this suggestion to him. He asked, however, that I advise the Ambassador that he would do what he could to have the Ambassador's suggestions taken into consideration. He said he would get in touch with Manuel Tello today prior to his departure from Mexico City. I told him, as is recorded in memorandum, that the Ambassador understood the historical reasons for Mexico's position and also understood that the request was late. 01 [LITENSOR] then raised the question of President Kennedy's visit which he said Senator Mansfield had raised. [He said that he would prefer President Kennedy came in December of this year, as he had advised Senator Mansfield, and that his personal preference was for a meeting in Monterrey.] 08 He said, however, that the place of meeting would be left entirely to President Kennedy to choose, and that security of President Kennedy and his party could be guaranteed any place in Mexico. His personal preference for Monterrey is because he thought it less likely that a small group or an individual might attempt to cause embarrassment to President Kennedy and his group, and that such efforts could be best controlled outside Mexico City proper. He brought up the question of President Kennedy's health and the probable affect of the altitude in Mexico City; but I told him that I thought President Kennedy's troubles had been due to his back and not to his heart, and that the altitude should not affect him.

3. For details of the subjects as listed by me, see separate memorandum for the files on each.

Distribution: 01

Orig - [LITENSOR]

1 - LIENVOY/Production

1 - Ambassador Mann file

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