

I would like to comment on the excellent information furnished by the San Juan Star last Friday, January 13, on the establishment in Puerto Rico of a Hemispheric Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange North South. However, I wish to emphasize, that the Center to be established in Puerto Rico is not similar to the one in Hawaii. Therefore, our Center cannot and should not be called a counterpart to the East-West Center in Hawaii.

In Hawaii, the Center is established as an integral part of the University of Hawaii and it is almost exclusively of a scholarly and training nature dedicated to the furtherance of mutually enlightening relationship with the Asian nations.

In Puerto Rico, the Center will be governed by a board which is to be responsible for its norms and policies.

I suggested to the group from the State Department who visited us last November that the Board should be composed in the number, manner and form that may be prescribed by the Congress. The money to be appropriated, or grants made to the Center to be made directly to this Board. In Hawaii, the appropriations are made directly to the University.

In my letter to Senator Wayne Morse, Chairman- Sub-Committee on American Republics Affairs of the United States Senate, dated December 1, 1960, a copy of which I sent to Mr. Dornillier, Editor Publisher of the San Juan Star, under the same date generally contains the American Legion's view points as to how this Hemispheric Center should function and operate. Many of the recommendations made by the State Department in their report are in my letter to Senators George Smathers of Florida, author of the project and to Senator Morse.

The basic function of our Center, the most important one, should be to try to correct the lack of understanding between the northern and southern parts of the Western Hemisphere. The training of United States diplomats and

State Department personnel bound for Latin America on duty is of paramount importance if we are going to be realistic in our goals. Training in the customs of these countries should also be available to the wives of this personnel. Persons appointed to key positions in Latin America should have a conversational command of the Spanish language. This is a must. The Center in Hawaii does not have this program.

I also suggested that the Center become an institution of learning for Latin Americans, many of whom would like to get educated in the United States but they lack the money and language facilities to do so. These students could make use of our existing facilities of higher learning. The University of Puerto Rico, for instance, will be of invaluable assistance in this program.

The use of the University in this project will assure the Center of immediate and continual interchange of information and ideas, provide necessary educational prestige, and make possible the closest liason between the Hemispheric Center and its activities and the educational institutions of the United States and Latin America. In this aspect of the program there is a similarity with the Center in Hawaii.

The Center will also be available to Foreign Service graduates from American Universities who wish to come to Puerto Rico to get a Doctor's degree in Latin American Affairs. Should also be available to American businessman who wish to take training in the customs of these countries.

I also suggested to the State Department group that the Director of the Hemispheric Center should be a Puerto Rican. Now that the State Department has agreed to my suggestion to have a Board govern the Center. I would also suggest that the permanent Chairman of the Board should be and ought to be the Governor of Puerto Rico, or his designated representative. This should

be in the law creating the Center.

The time has come for the United States to actively combat Communist infiltration in Latin America. What should we do to combat this menace that threatens to destroy Hemispheric solidarity? In addition to other important measures the establishing in Puerto Rico of the Hemispheric Center is of invaluable importance.

The American people and we in Puerto Rico very well know that Cuba has been transformed into a hostile and militant Communist Satellite, a base from which to carry Communist infiltration and subversion throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We must act now before the situation becomes worse. The United States and the Organization of American States must not permit the Caribbean to be converted into a Communist lake.