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M E M O R A N D U M

Mexico, D. F.
August 24, 1944

Re: Visit of General Miguel Enriquez Guzmán of the
Mexican Army to Santiago de Chile

General Enriquez Guzmán, a well-known General of the Mexican Army, has been invited by the Chilean Government to be present at the Independence Day celebrations to be held in Santiago de Chile, it is understood, in September. He is proceeding in a plane of the Mexican Army, accompanied by several officers of the Mexican Army and perhaps by a civilian. Although the presidential elections in Mexico are far in the future, there is already considerable speculation here and General Enriquez Guzmán is generally considered to be the candidate favored by General Cárdenas, former President of Mexico. Whether this is a fact, it is not possible to say, but it is possible to say that General Enriquez Guzmán is at present the candidate favored by many in the so-called Cárdenas group in Mexico, more particularly those who are on the extreme left.

General Enriquez Guzmán himself is considered to be friendly to the United States. It is probable that he himself is interested in this idea of being a presidential candidate in Mexico in the next elections. In that case it is quite likely that his views and activities would be largely controlled by the views of those who are fostering his candidacy up to now and who, it is known, are in the so-called Cárdenas group.

The views of this group are not particularly friendly to the United States, nor particularly friendly towards the idea of inter-American collaboration. Their views incline more toward Latin-American collaboration rather than Inter-American collaboration and they believe more in the policy of pressures on the United States than in a policy of full and frank collaboration, such as characterizes the present Government of Mexico.

In ordinary circumstances, the visit of General Enriquez Guzmán to Chile could be viewed without any

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concern for it would be not unusual for a well-known Mexican General to be invited to the Independence Day celebrations in another American Republic. There is good reason to believe, however, that the initiative for the visit of General Enriquez Guzmán to Chile came from the former Chilean Ambassador, Oscar Schnake, who has now been named as the Chilean representative before the French Committee of Liberation. Schnake's activities in Mexico are characterized by undue interest in internal Mexican affairs and by his association with extreme left elements in Mexico--to such a degree that he almost became persona non grata here prior to his departure for his new post, which departure is now imminent, his successor having arrived. Although Schnake has been continuously anti-fascist in his attitude, and although his record has been that of an honest liberal and socialist, his association with the more extreme left elements in Mexico, whose attitude towards the United States is fundamentally not friendly, caused a good deal of concern here. He had these intimate connections with the Cárdenas group, many of which do not favor close collaboration with the United States, and who, it is believed, would look with complacency on the formation of a Latin-American union instead of the present system of Inter-American collaboration.

There is good reason to believe that Ambassador Schnake and Ambassador Oumansky were in close touch constantly and that Ambassador Schnake had very close relationships with Lombardo Toledano. There are those who believe that the initiative for the trip of General Enriquez Guzmán, while it came from Schnake, was stimulated by Lombardo Toledano and Oumansky. This latter cannot be affirmed but that the initiative came from Schnake is certain and in view of his activities here in mixing in internal problems in Mexico it carries at least undesirable implications.

There are those in informed quarters who believe that General Enriquez Guzmán has been inspired by certain persons here in Mexico during his trip to Chile, and to the countries in which he will briefly stay during the trip south and back to spread the idea of distrust of the United States and to emphasize the idea of Latin-American union rather than the present system of Inter-American collaboration. Whether General Enriquez Guzmán will lend himself to such a procedure it is not possible to say.

In view, however, of the interest shown in certain extreme right and extreme left elements in Mexico and in certain others of the American Republics in this idea of

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a union of the Latin American Republics in contradistinction with Inter-American collaboration and close collaboration with the United States, and in view of the fact that this movement seems to be finding expression in various forms, and at least presents a potential danger in more than one country, it would be desirable if our Chiefs of Mission and their associates in the various capitals which General Enriquez Guzmán will visit will be on the alert to note whether he is in contact with extreme left or extreme right elements and whether he propagates this idea of Latin-American union in contradistinction with Inter-American collaboration.

The American Embassy in Mexico City believes that General Enriquez Guzmán should be treated with every consideration during this trip. It believes that the Department of State should be fully informed by our Chiefs of Mission of any information of interest concerning the trip which comes to their attention. It believes that while our Chiefs of Mission and their associates should endeavor to discreetly inform themselves with respect to anything of interest concerning the trip of General Enriquez Guzmán and so report to the Department, that no unusual steps should be taken which would indicate an undue interest by our Missions in his trip, as such undue interest would undoubtedly become known to General Enriquez Guzmán and to certain elements in Mexico and could not help our position either here or in the other American Republics.

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