

December 23, 1955

The Guatemalan Communists are celebrating a day of solidarity with the Viet Nam. In a manifesto issued by the CGT the people of Guatemala were asked to "solidify themselves with this brave people that fights against French colonists and North American imperialists interested that the present war with the Viet Nam does not end but continues being a source of disturbance to the peace of South East Asia and a base from which to threaten the popular Chinese Republic and the national liberation movements that will break the colonial chains." The statement concludes: "Viva the great president Ho Chi Minh!"

- -

The Guatemalan Foreign Minister Paul Osegueda tried to hide the movements of Ex-President Arévalo, telling the Guatemala City press the very day that Arévalo conferred with him that he did not know where Arévalo was going. The next day, Arévalo interviewed President Batista in the Cuban President's office. Arévalo, when he left Cuba December 19, en route to Ecuador to confer with President Velasco Ibarra, disclosed the apparent reason for his current trip and conferences with various presidents. He said that his interview with Batista discussed issues connected with the forthcoming Inter-American Conference at Caracas.

Significantly, Arévalo will be following in the path of Argentine Foreign Minister Romerón who has returned from a Bolivarian celebration staged at Santa Marta, Colombia. Arévalo from Ecuador goes to Bolivia and afterwards to Chile. Arévalo, a known Argentineophile, curiously enough is visiting the countries where Argentine influence has been growing. It can be surmised that Arévalo in his capacity as Guatemalan Ambassador at Large is campaigning abroad against the U. S. proposal to be introduced at Caracas to bring the issue of Communism in Guatemala before the Organization of American States.

President Batista, for his part, when asked what Arévalo was received, said the visit was private and informal and that he had reiterated to Arévalo "the political principles of the Cuban government in international affairs are founded on respect of free determination of the peoples and the democratic rights." He added that "no sister republic can expect direct and indirect aggression from Cuba whose policy is opposed to all disturbances in the Caribbean nor provocation to upset the peace in any regime of the world."

Arévalo, before leaving Guatemala, attended a meeting of the leaders of the revolutionary parties and recommended the "comandancia" in their fight against national and foreign capitalists and support President Arévalo in his nationalist campaign. Arévalo promised to return to live in Guatemala at the request of the party chiefs, some time after the first of the year, because "there will be much to fight to prevent the conservatives' returning to power"

