



kindex[®]

< Scan QR to view this original record online, or visit <https://jfk.kindex.org/s/493369>

Title: **104-10192-10110_p14.png**

Provenance:

Category: **Uncategorized**

Person:

Date:

CONTINUATION OF DISPATCH SECRET BOOK DISPATCH 5961

23. Growth Potential Exists, But Much Less Than Ordinarily Anticipated. The CD movement has made only modest progress in the past five years. Indications are that the development of the movement will be much slower and less extensive than many anticipated in the first flush of enthusiasm following the recent victory. It has many problems to resolve. Chief among these, perhaps, is CD failure to reach the lower social classes and to develop a significant worker base. The chances of CD contributing positively to correct this failure appear remote. Another major problem is the absence of an ideological common ground, despite the lip service paid to the Papal Encyclical and Catholic social philosophers, and the failure to enunciate uniform behavioral standards that these philosophical roots would impose. This deficiency is the root cause of the manifestations: First, a propensity to consort with Communist and assorted Marxist groups (e.g., in Colombia, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic and Panama). Second, the progressive radicalization of party youth wings with a tendency to push the parent parties further left. The fact remains, nevertheless, that Christian Democracy is the most unified non-Communist movement in Latin America. It cannot be labeled democratic or anti-Communist because of the behavioral aberrations of several national parties.

years ago -- including the European financial backers of the movement -- have dwindled considerably. But those who have been critics of Christian Democracy from the outset (many of whom might be described as the "visceral denigrators") have displayed no more perception in evaluating CD prospects. The head-in-the-sand generalization that Christian Democracy has no future does not stand the challenge of investigation. Neither does the assertion that Christian Democracy is the hemispheric wave of the future. The only valid generalization that might be made on CD prospects is that all generalizations are false. We would submit that the only valid approach to the CD phenomenon is to assess each movement and make operational judgements on a country-by-country basis. There are some countries where the collapse of the party would be no loss. The key question is this: Can the party develop as a positive element in national political stability? If so, it is incumbent on the Station to develop assets within the party and to examine the need for operational involvement. Station posture toward the CD movement must be based on the raw realities of the local situation, case by case.

RUTHERFORD J. LINER

SECRET

24. Need for Eclectic Operational Approach to CD's. The ranks of those who viewed Christian Democratic prospects with great enthusiasm two