



kindex®

< Scan QR to view this original record online, or visit <https://jfk.kindex.org/s/493345>

Title: **104-10192-10110_p23.png**

Provenance:

Category: **Uncategorized**

Person:

Date:

SECRET No Foreign Dissem

The CD movement, a closer and more formal relationship appear to be in the offing. Last April, officials of CLASC who are also officials of the Christian Democratic parties met in Montevideo to arrange closer coordination between the two groups. To accomplish this goal, they proposed that both the CD party labor departments and CLASC be granted formal representation in the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA), the regional grouping formed in 1949.

The plan has not yet been implemented, but eventual ODCA approval appears likely. Closer CLASC identification with the CD political movement may have an adverse effect on CD youth wings, which—being further left than their parent parties—have identified more closely with CLASC's revolutionary image, since the first of the year, CLASC has intensified its efforts to create its own youth groups and appears to have made some progress, especially in Central America.

The Role of ODCA

In its 17 years of existence, ODCA has not evolved beyond a sort of fraternity held together more by negative factors such as hostility to the US, to capitalism, and to the oligarchies, than by any basic agreement among its members on doctrine or

principles. Moreover, the individual parties have made very clear that they will fight any effort—whether initiated by the US or by the European financial backers of the CD movement—to impose standards and controls that will impinge on their freedom of action.

In general, ODCA takes a slightly less hostile line on US policies than that of its member parties. This probably results from the influence of its president, Rafael Caldera of Venezuela. The organization's two vice presidents are Hector Cornejo Chavez of Peru and Rene De Leon of Guatemala. Tomas Reyes Vicuna of Chile is its secretary general.

Only in Central America has there been any move toward a more cohesive unit geared to area problems. A similar regional group, the Christian Democratic Union of Central America, was organized last July. It now has five member parties in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, and a sixth may be formed in Honduras.

European Role and Influence

Although Latin American Christian Democracy like the European variety, has its roots in the profoundly humanistic and philosophical ideas of the French philosopher Jacques Maritain, it does not contain the European fascist concept of the corpo-

rate state. The European reaction to the growth of Communism in the 1930s had little effect on the Latin American CDs; consequently the Americans are less concerned with political tactics than with the more moving role of the church.

Not until 1947 did the newly important and affluent European

SECRET Page 6 SPECIAL REPORT 3 Mar 67