

DEMOCRACY AND CHRISTIANITY

versus

COMMUNISM AND ATHEISM

Members of the American GI Forum are busy holding committee meetings. Anticipated Project? "Operation Amigo".

To members of the Forum this project has special significance. It was Mr. Vicente T. Ximenes, Founder of the American GI Forum of New Mexico who appealed to Albuquerque citizens through the local newspaper, for aid for a school in Quito, Ecuador. Mr. Ximenes has been stationed in Ecuador with the U. S. International Cooperation Administration as an Economy Advisor, since October 1961.

Mr. Ximenes tells us of the poverty and illeteracy in which these people find themselves in and how these living conditions provide breeding grounds for Communism. He appeals to his friends and neighbors in Albuquerque for cash donations to at least provide basic school items such as: Chalk, blackboards, desks and chairs, things that here in the United States, we take for granted. Mr. Ximenes is doing this work on his own, apart from his official I C A Duties.

I having been associated with Mr. Ximenes through the GI Forum for a number of years understand his concern for these people. He has always shown consideration to his fellowmen irrespective of Race, Color, or Creed. Perhaps that is one reason why members of the GI Forum where he has deeply embedded his philosophy are answering his appeal. It is understandable that Mr. Ximenes even with his christian ideals and great fortitude cannot alone carry the burden of a suffering world on his shoulders, although he will try. For this reason the American GI Forum of the United States, the Organization guided by the philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi, has through an assembled meeting at the National Mid-Year Conference of the National Board of Directors, here in Albuquerque on February 17, 1962, and the New Mexico Board of Directors on March 3, 1962, passed a resolution to make "Operation Amigo" a National Project.

We feel that "Operation Amigo" gives all American Citizens an opportunity as individuals to promote a lot of good will for our country, help combat Communism and at the same time do our Christian Duty.

Mr. Ximenes tells me in one of his letters and I quote: "My work will soon be taking me out into the towns and villages of Ecuador. I hope to be able to work out some plan to help the great numbers of people in need of jobs, food, homes, medicine, schools, and many other things. I wish that you could be here so that you could go with me on some of these trips. You have no idea how badly things are needed here, for people to make a living. There just doesn't seem to be any kind of work to do for thousands of unskilled and illiterate people. The U. S. Mission is trying to do a good job in helping the people and I hope we succeed, because the time is short and the communists are hard at work. I hope we can help get the children enough for chalk and paper and pencils. " (unquote)

Yes, American GI Forum Committees throughout the country are holding meetings and getting ready to officially launch, Mr. Ximenes project "Operation Amigo". Who knows but that some of us who live in the Land of Plenty, but, who have at one time or another experienced hunger pains, perhaps in the battlefields in time of war or on other occasions, will make it possible for some people in a distant land, who are less fortunate than we are, to eat at least one good meal, through our efforts.

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Who was it that said? "What ye do for the least of my Brethern ye do for me"

Cash contributions for "Operation Amigo" are currently being accepted by Mr. Felix Salinas, National Executive Secretary of the GI Forum at 621 Gabaldon Rd. NW.

Respectively submitted
By: Procopio Martinez
304 Monroe NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Mr. Ximenes has been stationed in Ecuador with the U.S. International Cooperation Administration as an Economic Advisor since October 1961. Mr. Ximenes tells us of poverty and literacy in which these people find themselves in and how these living conditions provide breeding grounds for Communism. He appeals to his friends and neighbors in Albuquerque for cash donations to at least provide basic school items such as chalk, blackboards, desks and chairs. Things that here in the United States we take for granted. Mr. Ximenes is doing the best of his own apart from his official I C A duties.

Mr. Ximenes has been associated with Mr. Ximenes through the GI Forum for a number of years and understands his concern for these people. He has always shown consideration to his fellowmen irrespective of Race, Color or Creed. Perhaps that is one reason why members of the GI Forum where he has been deeply embedded have been so responsive to his appeal. It is understandable that Mr. Ximenes even with his Christian beliefs and great fortitude cannot alone carry the burden of a worldwide war as his shoulders, although he will try. For this reason the American GI Forum has been through an assembled meeting at the National Mid-Year Conference of the National Board of Directors here in Albuquerque on February 17, 1962, and the New Mexico Board of Directors on March 2, 1962, passed a resolution to make "Operation Amigo" a National Project.

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Mr. Ximenes tells me in one of his letters and I quote: "My work will soon be taking me out into the towns and villages of Ecuador. I hope to be able to work out some plan to help the great number of people in need of jobs, things, necessities, schools, and many other things that you cannot give so that you could go with me on some of these trips. I do have no idea how badly things are packed here for people to make a living. There just doesn't seem to be any kind of work to do for thousands of unskilled and illiterate people. The U. S. Mission is trying to do a good job in helping the people and I hope we succeed, because the time is short and the communists are hard at work. I hope we can help get the people's struggle on chalk and paper and pencils." (underline)

Yes, American GI Forum Committees throughout the country are holding meetings and getting ready to officially launch Mr. Ximenes project "Operation Amigo". Who knows but that some of us who live in the Land of Plenty, but who have spent time or another experienced hunger pains, perhaps in the battlefields in time of war or on other occasions, will make it possible for some people in a distant land who are less fortunate than we are, to eat at least one good meal, through our efforts.

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