

Alexander Gray Associates

510 West 26 Street
New York NY 10001
United States
Tel: +1 212 399 2636
www.alexandergray.com

C O N F I D E N C I A L, A U T O R E S F I R M A N T E S, 2015

Mixed media installation

Dimensions variable

Original documents discovered by historian Dr. Lillian Guerra in the Ministry of Culture, Cuba. Facsimiles created by Coco Fusco with the support of Alejandro Yoshii and Jennie Putvin. Translations into English by Coco Fusco, 2015.

Starting nearest to the window at document DGICL - 2852, left to right continuing clockwise.

To: Comrade René Roca
Director Group III

DGICL - 2852
CONFIDENTIAL

Date: May 21 1971
General Management Office

SUBJECT:

I instruct you so that you give the pertinent orders for the urgent removal of the following names and authors from international commerce and from the lists and catalogues of our organization. In the coming hours we will be adding new names and titles, and will also be making decisions regarding national circulation.

JEAN PAUL SARTRE

Sartre Visits Cuba
The Captive of Venice, Tintoretto
The Words
What is Literature? Volumes I and II
The Search for Method

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA

The Cubs

JULIO CORTAZAR

Hopscotch
Stories
About Julio Cortazar (Casa Notebooks)

JORGE SEMPRUN

The Long Journey

CARLOS FRANQUI

The Book of the Twelve

ITALO CALVINO

The Cloven Viscount

MARGUERITE DURAS

Whole Days in the Trees

LUIS (sic) GOYTISOLO

The Island

GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

One Hundred Years of Solitude
Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Casa, Multiple Views)

DGICL-2852

VARGAS LLOSA, CORTAZAR, FUENTES, OTHERS
Fifteen Stories from Latin America

JAN KOTT
Shakespeare, Our Contemporary

NICANOR PARRA
Poems

EDUARDO HERA LEON
The Steps on the Grass

NORBERTO FUENTES
The Condemned of the County

If there are obstacles to or comments against carrying out these instructions I ask that you please inform me as quickly as possible, as well as letting me know about the measures to be taken with the warehoused stock of these works. These measures should be taken with the highest degree of discretion possible so as not to create a ruckus about the issue.

Revolutionarily,

Rolando Rodríguez
General Manager

cc: Miguel Rodríguez, Editor in Chief
Eduardo Neira, International Relations

CONFIDENTIAL

Comrade Rolando Rodríguez
General Manager

May 22 1971
The Year of Productivity
Dept. of International Relations

Comrade:

Expanding upon our memo from from May 19th, we continue with a list of titles of books that we recommend be withdrawn form circulation. We would like to clarify that since there is no complete list of books published by the organization, we cannot be sure yet if our list is exhaustive.

1. Poems for Che
2. New Spanish Poetry
3. The Route of Hernan Cortez - Benítez
4. Limits and Potentialities of the May Movement - ANDRE GORZ
5. The Burning Plain - JUAN RULFO
6. Pedro Páramo
7. Tropisms - N. SARRAUTE
8. A Brief History of the Mexican Revolution - SILVA HERZOG
9. Las Casas and Trujillo - HANS MAGNUS - ENZENBERGER
10. Juan Rulfo - Multiple Evaluations
11. OCTAVIO PAZ
12. CLARIDAD ALEGRIA
13. R. ROSSANDA

Revolutionarily,

Fatherland or Death
We Shall Win!

DOCUMENT I

Policy for the CUBAN BOOK INSTITUTE to carry out with regard to those intellectuals (and their works) that have taken a position of open hostility toward the Cuban Revolution due to the Heberto Padilla case

Due to the detention of Heberto Padilla – for frankly counterrevolutionary activities – a group of European and Latin American intellectuals (many of the latter being residents of European capitals), have assumed an attitude of open hostility toward the Cuban Revolution – an attitude that was first shown by the signing of the document that was sent to the Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government, Commander Fidel Castro; and then by the signing of the second document, also addressed to comrade Fidel, dated after the end of the National Congress of Education and Culture; and the writing of a document sent by Mexican intellectuals, and in various declarations that some of these intellectuals have made to the Mexican press, and other Latin American magazines.

After analyzing the documents we have noted that some of these intellectuals are signatories of the first and second documents sent to our government; signatories as well of the letter from Mexico, and that they have made declarations against our revolution. This is to say, that

some of these intellectuals display an open, active and manifest hostility toward our revolution and government. There are others who, after having signed the first documents, did not sign the other two, nor have they made declarations against our revolution. This attitude is to be expected given that they have not publically recognized their having been unjust in their attacks nor have they retracted them.

Confronted with this situation, we are compelled to evaluate the degree of participation of these intellectuals – their degree of involvement is indisputably not the same in all those implicated. For this reason, we think that, if different degrees of participation exist among the said intellectuals, it is necessary to make pertinent distinctions with regard to this case.

There is one person in particular that draws our attention and that is Jesús Silva Herzog, who we think has really been a victim – give his state of decrepitude – of those counterrevolutionary intellectuals who have taken advantage of this situation to obtain a signature of someone like Silva Herzog appear on their document.

We consider it important to highlight all the counterrevolutionary hate that is hidden in the signatures on the second document sent from Paris to comrade Fidel, in which with incredible virulence, our revolution is attacked,

accusing it of using draconian methods to “extract” Heberto Padilla’s self-criticism letter. It should be taken into account that already on this date the National Congress of Education and Culture had finished and Fidel spoke at the end; hence the document can be considered as a response to these events.

Looking at the situation in this way we might ask: what should the policy of the Cuban Book Institute be with respect to the attitude of these intellectuals? And what attitude should be taken with regard to their works?

We think that we should outline the actions to be taken in the following terms:

1. There will be no publishing of any works by the signatories of these documents, nor of those who have made declarations against the revolution and the Cuban government.
2. In the case of those authors whose works — of recognized value due to their magnitude and quality — will transcend them and will surely survive them, we should allow history to judge them and determine, on a case by case basis, if they merit being published or not, in the future, based on the criteria that artistic, literary, and scientific creation is part of the patrimony of humanity and not that of its creators.
3. Make an obligatory distinction, give the different levels of engagement, among the many cases and

analyze the situation of those who have made declarations in which they recognize how mistaken the positions that they had assumed were or in which they have sent a signal by not signing the aforementioned documents.

4. With regard to export, we should not sell any of the works by these intellectuals outside the country. We should also remove their works from the catalogues we use for export purposes.
5. With regard to national distribution, we should remove titles by these authors from sales if necessary. We consider that this should be done with the works of those who have assumed an openly anti-Cuban attitude. It is possible that many of these titles are already out of stock in bookstores, but if any remain they should be removed.
6. As a means of preserving works that deserve to be saved because of their value, those titles that are withdrawn from sale and reading rooms should be sent to libraries for their conservation and use.
7. With regard to general catalogues from our publishing houses that are in the process of producing books by these intellectuals, that process should be stopped until further notice pending a decision about what other actions to take, which will be made when conditions permit it.

8. Just as we have agreed not to publish, sell abroad or include any works by these intellectuals in our catalogues, we consider that in the future when we are faced with a different situation than the one we currently find ourselves in, we should try to ascertain which authors, and which works of those authors who may have changed their attitude toward our government and our revolution, we might consider publishing, taking into consideration that some of these intellectuals may have been lied to and thereby corralled into signing the documents that attack our revolutionary government and the Cuban Revolution. In short, we should act tomorrow with the same rigor that we employ today to be in tune with reality.

Havana, May 23 1971

THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

DOCUMENT II

Some considerations with regard to the internal circulation (national distribution) of the titles by the above-mentioned authors

1. Once you are possession of the list of authors whose book distribution is to be frozen – (paralyzed at this moment). We recommend that they all be concentrated in storage area for their conservation.
2. Once the process now underway of gathering information is complete there should be a meeting of all the Provincial Delegates, in which we can inform them of these problems and we can learn how many copies of these titles exist in different provinces, how many of those are in warehouses and how many have already been distributed.
At that meeting we will make clear that we will not start to retrieve materials that have been distributed to reading rooms and libraries and we recommend that each Delegate should slowly remove copies in these venues from circulation.

3. Finally we will propose that a certain quantity of these titles should be sent to certain libraries, in particular the National Library (Havana) and provincial ones, the central libraries of the universities and the schools of the Communist Party, etc.
4. The recently published catalogues from the Art and Literature series that were not distributed before and that are now to be found in the Exhibition Center, the editorial office and the National Warehouse should be concentrated in one single place.

Havana, May 23 1971

THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

DOCUMENT III

Some considerations with regard to the importation of publications by the aforementioned authors

1. We are of the opinion that regardless of whether the positions assumed were of greater or less intensity by a large number of authors, our country should import the titles that have already been published in small amounts. We justify this plan in that:
 - 1.1 We consider all the works of these authors as information; we are not importing large quantities of these works.
 - 1.2 We need to be able to continue to evaluate the works to determine their profundity and which works will survive their authors.
 - 1.3 Commercial intelligence regarding the foreign publishers that issue them. Without a doubt our organization manages international commerce of publications and consequently we need to arrive at opinions regarding our relations with those publishers.
 - 1.4 Maintain an intelligent position with foreign observers who might decide to completely close down.

DGICL-2901 (Confidential)

Up to now our country has made key large scale purchases of technical books, and so even a discreet purchase would not be in contradiction with the position taken up to now.

2. We consider it important that once the above-mentioned aspect is accepted -- and before that it is essential that some opinions be fixed.
3. In our opinion, we should make it a rule that none of country's organizations receive publications by these authors. However, we propose that this measure acquire an internal character, in other words, remaining organizations --those already included, and any that could be added-- would not receive any information [about the censorship of the books], but we would proceed to eliminate the imports of these books, and say in the end that the materials not provided (together with all the other titles that we cannot generally provide) have been canceled.

We propose that these organizations be permitted to import discreet quantities of the titles:

Cuban Book Institute (Editorial Series and Leadership that would normally receive the books)

WITH

MINFAR (Ministry of the Armed Forces)-- Political Leadership

MININT (Ministry of the Interior) -- Political Leadership

MINREX (Ministry of Foreign Relations) -- Corresponding Leadership

DGICL – 2901 (Confidential)

Universities

Ministry of Education – Political Leadership

National Council of Culture – Leadership and National Library

I.C.R. (Cuban Radio Institute)

I.C.A.I.C. (Cuban Film Institute)

I.C.A.P. (Cuban Institute for Friendship Among Peoples)

Casa de las Américas

Havana, May 23 1971

THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

DOCUMENT IV

Some considerations regarding the Export of publications by the authors referred to

1. We consider that, as a matter of principle, all the titles by the authors who, with greater or lesser intensity, have adopted an anti-Cuban position, SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EXPORTABLE COLLECTION. The quantities in existence should be transferred to the National Distribution Group to be stored in same warehouse that houses books in circulation.

2. In our catalogues in progress and the ones we will make in time we should not make any reference to these authors. Cases of rectification should first of all effect our internal circulation, but in the last instance, this is the condition for books to return to being exportable stock from Cuba.

3. In the cases of authors who conversely have maintain a position of revolutionary alignment, their books should be showcased in our flyers and published for export.

Havana, May 23 1971

THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

Comrade Miguel Rodríguez
Comrade René Roca
Comrade Eduardo Neira

DGICL-2916

June 2 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of General Management

In agreement with what was proposed in our last note I insist that the matter involving the signatories to the letters and the authors of declarations made abroad in relation to the Heberto Padilla case be handled with the utmost discretion.

In the case of those who only signed the first letter and afterward have not made any other statement we should proceed with great caution in our actions, only freezing their works or those related to them without assuming an attitude that could seem definitive with respect to them.

Revolutionarily,

Rolando Rodriguez
General Manager

SOCIAL SCIENCE PUBLISHING HOUSE
Havana, June 15, 1971
THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

To: Rolando Rodríguez
From: Luis García Peraza

SUBJECT: Book by Charles Bettelheim, Socioeconomic Frameworks and the Organization of Social Planning.

REF: ECS-384

In the Leadership Council meeting of this Publishing House held yesterday, we analyzed the situation related to the reference book that is among the titles subject to our plan 71, in response to a request from the Economic Institute at the University of Havana. This request involves 100 copies for students, 200 for professors and 50 for libraries, with a total of 350 copies.

After reading an article by Ch. Bettelheim attacking our revolution, that was published in the French newspaper Le Monde on May 12, we have decided – applying the agreements that emerged from the Congress on Education and Culture that were expounded by our Prime Minister Fidel Castro – not to publish that book and to communicate our decision to the petitioners and the arguments on which our decision is based.

We believe that the need for the title that the petition described can be sufficiently covered by the acquisition of 100 copies that should be placed in the library of the Institute.

If you are in agreement with this suggestion, please ask that your office make the necessary request to the comrades in the department of imports in order to carry out this purchase.

On our part we are conveying to Production to cancel this title and are offering a political explanation for this decision.

Since we spoke in person about this yesterday, I ask that you please keep me abreast of any changes or decisions made with respect to this matter.

Without more, revolutionarily yours,
Luis García Peraza

c/C: Archive, Consecutive
LGP/meg.

Havana, June 16 1971
THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

DGICL: 2995 (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comrade Miguel Rodriguez Varela
Editor in Chief

Comrade René Roca Mucholí
Director Group III

Comrade Eduardo Neira García
International Relations

Due to the situation that has developed in the last few weeks, we have made a final decision with respect to those who have assumed positions relating to the so-called Padilla case, which is to say those who say that the self-criticism was made under pressure or as a result of torture.

In this case there are those signatories of the second letter and those that, in statements and declarations, in cables and publications, have insinuated as much. Among them are Gabriel García Márquez and others who for greater accuracy, I include in an attached list.

The works of these same people, in accordance with the approach set out in the documents produced by this office, should be suppressed in the following manner:

- a) All future publication possibilities.
- b) The lists that appear in books that have been published in this country.
- c) All catalogues
- d) Catalogues of titles for export
- e) Export
- f) The circulation of their works, when they are found to be in reading rooms, or in bookstores.
- g) The mention of these people in our publications, bulletins, etc.
- h) References to these people, whatever form it might take, other than to make explicit that they are enemies of the revolution and definitely counterrevolutionary.

i) Restriction on import of works by these same writers.

j) Absolute freeze of any and all warehouse stock.

Lastly, these measures should be adequate with respect to our foreign distributors and should be known in our provinces, while we insist on a high level of discretion in their application.

Proceed with communicating the measures taken to fulfill these provisions and the number of pertinent works that are currently in stock.

Revolutionarily,

Rolando Rodríguez
General Manager

To: Comrade René Roca Muchulí
Director of Group III

June 22 1971
Headquarters

DGIVL: 3048
CONFIDENTIAL

Comrade:

To continue, I list the following titles:

- 1) 6 Poets, Casa, 1970 - A poem by Guillermo Rodríguez Rivera is in it.
- 2) The Condemned of the County - Norberto Fuentes, 1968 Prize Collection.
- 3) Eduardo Heras León - Steps on the Grass - Honorable Mention 1970, Casa de las Americas; from the same author, The War Had Six Names, David Prize, 1968, UNEAC.
- 4) Nicanor Parra - Poems - Latin American Literature Collection, Casa de las Americas.

It is also suggested that the works of José Lorenzo Fuentes should be withdrawn: (both are UNEAC titles)

-- After the Seagull
--January Wind

These titles should be removed from our catalogues and also from international circulation; it goes without saying that they should be taken out of national circulation as well. You should use the same measure that we are using for other situations, but those efforts should be separated from these, since they are not related to the same case.

Revolutionarily,

Rolando Rodríguez
General Manager

c.c. Comrade Miguel Rodríguez
Editor in Chief

Comrade Eduardo Neira
International Relations

Havana, July 17 1971

THE YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

TO: Comrade Rolando Rodríguez
General Manager

FROM: Comrade Alcibíades Hidalgo
International Relations

Comrade:

I inform you that, while I was reviewing the titles published by the Casa de las Américas, I detected a prologue by Calvert Casey in the edition of "The Whirlwind" by José Eustasio Rivera that is in the Latin American Literature Collection.

Revolutionary greetings

FATHERLAND OR DEATH
WE SHALL WIN!

a.g.

THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL

There are other national authors such as:

Padilla – Arrufat – César López – Yanes – Belkys Cuza – Buzzi – Reinaldo Arenas –
Nogueras – Casaus or Pablo Armando Fernandez.

As examples, whose ideological attitude is known, but we consider that it would not be tactical to withdraw their books since we do not yet have precise analysis of those particular cases and the national policies with respect to them.

With regard to the foreign authors listed at the beginning here, although we believe that they did not deserve to be circulated in Cuba because of the attitude they have assumed, they should be carefully studied and it is urgent that the decision to withdraw them and of the method to be used be made, as it is probable that there will be leaks and this will have serious repercussions because of the quantity and the reach of the titles in question.

Revolutionarily,

FATHERLAND OR DEATH
WE SHALL WIN!