

OPERATIONAL REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY: Guatemala
SUBJECT: Assassination of President CASTILLO
Armas Planned by Captain Fernando ROMERO
DATE OF INFO: 25 June 1955
PLACE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]
DATE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. Captain Fernando ROMERO, who went to Chiquimula, Guatemala, on 25 June 1955 to attend the celebration of the first anniversary of the capture of the town by liberation forces, planned to assassinate President Carlos CASTILLO Armas while the latter was at a luncheon there. However, CASTILLO made only a short visit to Chiquimula and did not remain for the luncheon as scheduled; ROMERO was therefore unable to carry out his mission.
2. In a heated political discussion with Col. Jorge BARRIOS Solares, Governor of the Department, which took place that evening, ROMERO became so enraged that he attempted to throw the hand grenade which he had planned to use against CASTILLO. When an aide to BARRIOS saw what ROMERO intended to do, he shot him through the head. However, the grenade exploded, and several people were wounded, including Col. BARRIOS.

Comment:

1. It is not clear whether this was part of an organized attempt on CASTILLO's life or whether ROMERO was acting solely on his own authority.
2. Newspaper accounts of this incident indicated only that ROMERO died in Chiquimula after a grenade exploded in his hand. Col. BARRIOS has returned to duty.

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