

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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2003

AIR POUCH

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CLASSIFICATION

DISPATCH NO. [1]-485

TO : CHIEF, LINCOLN
DATE: 9 MARCH 1954
FROM : CHIEF OF STATION, [1]
INFO: CHIEF, WHD
SUBJECT: General - Operational Intelligence, KUFIRE
Specific - Commercial Intelligence, Guatemala

1. JUICY returned from a four-day trip to Guatemala City and reports he was present in the Chevrolet/Buick Agency when Alfonso ~~MARTINEZ~~ Estevez entered with two bodyguards on 3 March 1954 and paid \$3000 on his account in new 100 quetzal bills. He said he would pay the balance due shortly (B-1)
2. MARTINEZ has owed \$5300 for a matter of two years and has subjected collectors to such disregard that the debt had been written off as a bad one. He now drives Cadillacs (2). (B-2)
3. It is purported by local Guatemala City business men that MARTINEZ killed ARANA and has had a falling out with ARBENZ. (C-3)
4. JUICY also stated:
 - A. In general, business is not too bad but collections are slightly slower. (B-2)
 - B. A recent curtailment in dealers' credit by General Motors has been accepted in good grace upon the assurance other PBPRIME manufacturers would follow suit. (B-2) It is proposed, however, to send a delegation to New York City to appeal the ruling. (B-3)
 - C. There is a current stock of approximately \$12,000,000 worth of unsold coffee (at \$112.50 per 150 pound unit this would approximate 160,000,000 pounds). (B-3)
 - D. A rumor prevails in local business circles that ARBENZ has an airplane on a strip, in PETEN near FLORES, cleared and guarded by soldiers. The aircraft is of a type and class sufficient to transport him and his family to MEXICO CITY where he is purported to have made advanced arrangements for flight to Switzerland. (B-6)

5 March 1954
CFR/hdw

[CHARLES F. RENNELL]

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