

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL**

2003

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
The Deputy Director**

Confirming my oral report at the Director's meeting this morning, I am submitting herewith for the information and comment of the Director and the Deputy Director an account of the points covered in our Friday discussion with Messrs Thomas Mann, Langston Barry, and Ray Liddy.

T. G. W.

EYES ONLY

**1 March 1954
(DATE)**

TOP SECRET

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OAS

*Memorandum for Record
JED 1 March 1954
Jc King
Staff
17
26 Feb
to Caracas
Vps*

EYES ONLY

P. S. In addition to the foregoing points covered in C/WH's memorandum, there was a fairly extensive discussion of what the United States delegation's position might be in the event that the Guatemalans, or anyone else, should either at the Caracas Conference or subsequently propose an investigation (whether through the appointment of a special investigating committee or otherwise) of the charges set forth in the so-called Guatemalan White Paper, and/or any additional charges which might be made. It was tentatively agreed that such an investigation by an international committee could prove embarrassing, and that the best way of attacking the proposal would be by putting forth a substantial number of important amendments, some of which designed to be so distasteful to the Guatemalan regime as to cause them to oppose the amendments, whereupon we could oppose with much better grace any investigation not incorporating the amendments. The kind of amendment which our delegation (or, hopefully, some other delegation which could be persuaded to carry the mail for us) might propose would consist of some very broad positions, supported by a number of pinpoint or rifle shot requirements. We might take the broad position that all of the kinds of actions of which the Guatemalans are complaining and of which they are demanding investigation, may or may not be going on for all we (the US) know, but that it would be no surprise if there were to be a great deal of this sort of thing because it is the inevitable result of political oppression within a country. Accordingly the Guatemalan proposition

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is unsatisfactory and unacceptable since it would examine only the symptoms of a disease whereas the root or cause of the disease is what should be examined; viz., what are the forms of political oppression and the precise extent and nature of Communism within Guatemala? This is the main point and should be tackled first and foremost, and should be thoroughly gone into, otherwise no dice. Specific supplementary points could be demands for the investigation and interrogation, under conditions guaranteeing freedom from duress and subsequent retaliation, of the large numbers of Guatemalans who have been summarily arrested and either tortured or killed, or both. (These persons arrested within Guatemala include some fairly key individuals, but their knowledge is not believed to extend to any seriously compromising information.)

The thought has occurred to me, and should be further examined, that some of these points would make such telling propoganda that they should be used as a part of our covert propoganda attack in the event that there is no occasion to use them officially at the conference. A part of my thought in this connection is that the dissemination of these lines would be very embarrassing to the position of the Guatemalan Government and would tend to condition the thinking of other Latin American countries favorably against the day when the Guatemalans might come forthwith a demand for an investigation.

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

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