

RYBAT

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. ~~HGG-A-712~~

~~SECRET~~  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Lincoln

DATE: FEB 10 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala [ ]

INFO: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— [ ]

Reference: HGG-A-698; HGG-A-690

1. There are being transmitted to each addressee two copies each of two memoranda of conversation written by Mr. John Calvin HILL, Jr., Second Secretary of Embassy. As will be noted, the conversations were held by HILL with [ ] alleged personal representative of General Miguel YDIGORAS Fuentes. The first of these two memoranda is dated 30 January 1954, and the other 1 February 1954.
2. Photostatic copies of those documents mentioned in both memoranda were forwarded to addressee stations under cover of HGG-A-698.

[ ]  
Cyrus E. Burnette

Enclosures:  
Two memoranda as noted

4 February 1954

CEB/cmh

Distribution:

- 2-Linc w/2 att (in dup)
- 3-Wash w/2 att (in dup)
- 1-Files w/2 att

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

**2003**

FEB 12 Rec'd

RYBAT

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CLASSIFICATION

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January 30, 1954

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: [ ] avowed Personal Representative of General Miguel YDIGORAS Fuentes.

Mr. John Calvin Hill, Jr. Second Secretary of Embassy.

[ ] who had twice called previously representing himself as a former secretary of General Miguel YDIGORAS Fuentes, the Guatemalan exile leader in El Salvador, dropped in at his own initiative yesterday afternoon and, when I sent word I was too busy to see him until the following morning, asked if he could come up for two minutes. When I agreed he gave me two thick envelopes of material to read, saying he had a few days ago got back from El Salvador where he had conferred with the General. I said I would read the material provided. He said that one of the envelopes contained material which had to be returned to El Salvador, that he had intended to send it back through his own channels, but that due to the recent arrests he wondered whether we could not send the material to an address in El Salvador through diplomatic channels. I said I regretted that I could not discuss the matter in any way because I had not read the documents and had to get off an urgent report. I asked if he could come in on Monday, February 1, at 11 o'clock and he agreed.

Later, on opening the envelopes, I found a long letter from [ ] to me extolling General Ydigoras, analyzing various possible ways to end the Arbenz "Communist" government and concluding that the only practical way was for U.S. secret agents very discreetly to organize and finance a coup d'état by Army officers.

The second envelope contained a letter purporting to be signed by the General (the signature has not been checked) as his personal representative in Guatemala, and a series of documents concerning the relations of the General with Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas, the exile leader in Honduras, and other opposition groups.

Copies and photostats of this correspondence are attached.

HCHill:es

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1 Feb

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: [ ] avowed personal representative of General Miguel YDIGORAS Fuentes.

Mr. John Calvin Hill, Jr., Second Secretary of Embassy.

Pursuant to our brief conversation of January 29, [ ] called this morning in relation to the documents he had brought in on that day and which I had in the interval discovered to consist of a suggestion that the U. S. Government attempt to overthrow the Arbenz Administration by using undercover agents to bring about an Army rebellion and also of a series of purportedly original documents of correspondence between General YDIGORAS Fuentes and CASTILLO Armas and others.

[ ] opened by saying that he had been to El Salvador on the 15th or 16th month and had talked extensively with Ydigoras Fuentes. The letter he had addressed to me was based on notes he had made of the General's views. Ydigoras Fuentes, he said, was fed up with Castillo Armas who had wasted all the funds he had had and whose organization was infiltrated by Guatemalan Government agents ([ ] added that the recent government publication of photostatic documents of the Ydigoras Fuentes-Castillo Armas correspondence proved this and further that it was known that Juan PEROS and Lic. CORONADO Lira of Castillo Armas' organization were Guatemalan Government agents). The General felt he should never have signed the pact.

[ ] then went on to say that General Ydigoras had suggested he come to the Embassy with Lic. Guillermo DAVILA Cordova, but that this was impossible due to the latter's arrest and deportation. He decided to come himself to give their view that it was impossible to do anything against the Arbenz Administration without U. S. aid. He told me a lot of Guatemalans had done something to aid Castillo Armas' plans financially and now they would be even more disillusioned. He alluded to my statement in an earlier conversation that the U. S. pursued a non-interventionist policy and said he recognized our problem. However, his only purpose in coming was to emphasize that unless the U. S. did something, there would be no solution and the situation was getting worse and worse. He hoped that despite our difficult situation we would find our way clear to find a solution, but emphasized that the hand of the U. S. Government and the Embassy should be hidden.

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Replying to him, I said that we were always grateful to receive the views of Guatemalans on our policy toward this country but, as he himself had recognized, we were committed to a policy of non-intervention and this presented problems that were outside his competence or mine to decide. That we were seriously concerned about Communism in Guatemala was no secret and had been made evident in many official statements. Naturally, we were interested in all views as to how to solve this problem and his suggestions would be studied, but all sorts of factors were involved as well as our non-interventionist policy and there was nothing he and I could do to pursue the subject. Meanwhile, I continued, I had noted that he had made a point that in any case the Embassy should not be involved in any of the activities he suggested, and wondered whether it would not be better to let the present atmosphere settle before any more calls of this nature.

I also told [ ] that our regulations were most strict about sending unofficial material through our pouch and that it would therefore be impossible to return the documents to El Salvador as he had suggested at our last interview.

[ ] took the foregoing in good grace. He gave me the name of [ ]

[ ] should we ever wish to get in touch with him, and asked if he could pick up the documents later as it would be suicidal to take them until he had figured out a way to dispose of them. I said that they were his documents and, of course, we could not force him to take them. They would be available at his convenience.