

AIR

PBSUCCESS

SECRET

RVBAT

Lincoln

HGG-A-718

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

9 FEB 1954

Chief, WHD

Chief of Station, Guatemala

2003

INFO: Lincoln

Operational

[ ]

X  
Ernesto SAMAYOA Caceres

1. In the 5 January 1954 edition of the Diario de Centro America, the official propaganda organ of the Guatemalan government, there appeared an account of an interview given by Ernesto SAMAYOA Caceres, a Mexican agronomist and representative of the Sociedad Agronomica Mexicana (SAM), who had come to Guatemala to study the agrarian reform activities in this country.
2. In the Diario de Centro America article, SAMAYOA Caceres was described as being 45 years of age, a graduate in 1936 of the National Agricultural School of Chapingo (Mexico), and presently the Assistant Agent in the State of Veracruz, Mexico, of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. SAMAYOA Caceres was also described as having previously worked in the Department of Agriculture, in the Secretariat of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, in the Society of Hydraulic Resources, and in the National Credit Banks of Mexico.
3. The aforementioned article in the Diario de Centro America stated that SAMAYOA Caceres, as the special representative of the National Executive Committee of the SAM, had held a two hour conversation with Waldemar BARRIOS Klee, a known Communist and the head of the Lands Section of the Departamento Agrario Nacional (DAN), during which the latter explained the progress made to date by the Agrarian Reform Program in Guatemala.
4. Nothing further was heard concerning SAMAYOA Caceres until an editorial appeared in the 1 February 1954 issue of the anti-Communist newspaper El Espectador. In this editorial mention is made of the considerable publicity given by the government press to SAMAYOA Caceres when he first arrived in Guatemala. However, according to El Espectador, SAMAYOA Caceres, a frank and sincere individual, soon criticized the interference of the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG) and of the Confederación Nacional de Campesinos Guatemaltecos (CNCG), both Communist-dominated, in matters which should be handled only by the DAN. Interference by these organizations, SAMAYOA Caceres allegedly claimed, would provoke difficulties in the agrarian reform movement and seriously endanger respect for law and order in Guatemala. However, SAMAYOA Caceres' greatest mistake,

SECRET

RVBAT

FEB 12 Rec'd

98

according to El Espectador, was to tell a known Communist and high-ranking DAN official (apparently referring to Waldemar BARRIOS Klee) that the Agrarian Reform leaders in Guatemala must beware of Communist penetration efforts. SAMAYOA Caceres allegedly stated that Mexico's experience with Communists in the agrarian reform movement had been most unpleasant since the Communists had invaded the lands and had done so much harm that it had taken the Mexicans fifteen years to undo the damage. While admitting that during the time of CARDENAS he had also been infected by Communist ideology, SAMAYOA Caceres warned against permitting the Communists to infiltrate the Agrarian Reform movement in Guatemala and said that the Mexican experience should be an object lesson.

5. According to El Espectador, SAMAYOA Caceres' anti-Communist stand resulted in his complete isolation and, being unable to renew contact with the authorities, he sent a telegram of protest to President ARBENZ and then returned to Mexico.
6. A cautious, local investigation tends to indicate that the El Espectador story is basically true and it is the opinion of this station that the SAMAYOA Caceres incident could be of considerable value if properly handled. It is considered possible that [ ] could arrange to obtain a signed statement from SAMAYOA Caceres concerning this affair. Such a statement, coming from a Mexican official, might prove of considerable value for use as contemplated in LINC 343.
7. If such should not be feasible, it might be possible to have SAMAYOA Caceres interviewed by representatives of the anti-Communist press and, on the basis of this interview, prepare a campaign against Communist domination of the agrarian reform activities of the Guatemalan government. Such a campaign should prove of interest since a fundamental premise of Guatemalan propaganda both within and outside the country is that land reform is a great and noble measure based on elementary concepts of social and economic justice. Charges of Communist influence and/or direction of the land reform movement in Guatemala are branded as false and classed as simply being the means used by the landlords and the imperialistic United States to conceal selfish reasons for opposition to land reform in Guatemala.

[ ]  
Earle N. Bannister

Enclosures:  
2 clippings as noted

9 February 1954

ENB/cmh

Distribution:

- 2-Line w/2 att
- 3-Wash w/2 att
- 1 [ ] w/2 att
- 1-Files w/o att