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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Washington

PBSUCCESS

Information Regarding Anti-Government Plans

Reference: HGG-A-635, HGG-A-660

1. Attached for the information of Lincoln and Headquarters is a copy of a letter from the American Ambassador to Mr. Raymond G. LEDDY of the Department of State and dated 19 January 1954.
2. Also enclosed is a copy of the memorandum attached to the above letter and prepared by Andrew B. WARDLAW, First Secretary in the American Embassy. It is thought that this information may be of interest in connection with the above project. It was supplied by the same source as that of reference (1).

Enclosure:
Letter and Memorandum as noted

Clara M. Heagey

19 January 1954

CMH

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~~SECRET~~
Security Information

American Embassy,
Guatemala City, Guatemala,
January 19, 1954.

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

Dear Ray:

Enclosed is a further memorandum on anti-government activity in Guatemala.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Peurifoy

Enclosure:

Copy of Memorandum.

Raymond G. Leddy, Esquire,
Officer in Charge,
Central America and Panama Affairs,
Room 4103, New State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

ABW/mm

January 19, 1954

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Ambassador

FROM: Andrew B. Wardlaw

SUBJECT: Further Information Regarding Anti-Government Plans
by Source of Report of January 10, 1954

The anti-Government leaders intend to strike next month before the Caracas Conference. They contemplate an invasion from Honduras and simultaneous uprisings in all parts of Guatemala. In most places these uprisings are expected to meet with immediate success, but in Guatemala City, Puerto Barrios, Zacapa, and other points, they are likely to encounter strong resistance. These leaders are not particularly concerned about opposition from the Army, which they believe will be largely neutral or divided, but they are worried about shock troops composed of selected workers who have been organized and, presumably, trained. They also are worried about the police. They are particularly concerned about the possibility of heavy street fighting and possibly mob action by workers and Indians especially brought into Guatemala City to protect the Government.

To arm their forces in the country adequately, there is needed, in addition to present weapons, 200 light machine guns, 20 heavy machine guns, 1,000 sub-machine guns, 3,000 explosive hand grenades, 200 incendiary hand grenades, 10 mortars, and supplies of pistols and rifles. Apparently arms for invading forces constitute no problem, and singularly enough, no mention has been made of a need for airplanes.

There is a steady stream of men leaving the country by train, plane, and particularly by highway, going to join the prospective invading forces in Honduras.

The anti-Communist forces need money (\$20,000 to \$40,000) for use in Guatemala in preparing a climate for their move. They wish to carry on a campaign of propaganda in the press, in leaflets, and in pamphlets. This would probably be done by the regular anti-Communist organizations in the country and would be as open as possible. Once the movement begins money will be needed for paying troops. (I emphasized to my contact that they must not look to us for money since we would have nothing to do with their movement.) He indicated that money was not needed for forces now outside of the country or for winning over key army or other personnel.

An effort will be made to give us some kind of forewarning on the attempt through a local person (1).

The leaders are concerned about the possibility of moves by the Government and the Communists to anticipate the attempt by the anti-Communists. They fear the Government supporters might stage a "Bogotazo" in which mobs would kill anti-Communist leaders and sack their homes, taking their records and arms. In such a circumstance the mobs would probably be not too discriminating about whose homes they were pillaging. Possibly the CGTG's Congress at the end of this month might serve as an occasion for unleashing such an attack against opponents of the Government.

[] that Lic. Julio GOMEZ Padilla, well known pro-Communist magistrate, recently told his father, Julio GOMEZ Robles, that the Government actually is expecting an invasion from Honduras and El Salvador, and the Government has decided that when it begins it will take "hostages" by arresting the most prominent members of the opposition, anti-Communists, and members of the wealthy classes as well as people known for their pro-American sympathies. Lists of persons to be arrested are already prepared.

The anti-Communists think that it is possible, although not probable, that pro-Government army leaders such as Diaz or Sanchez might seize power and force a partial clean-up of the situation before the anti-Communists can launch their movement. This would create a difficult problem for the anti-Communists. However, they believe that such a group could not remain long in power.

My contact gave me the name of an individual who he says is the Internal Civilian leader of the movement (2).

In the event my contact leaves the city, his contacts would like to keep the present channel of communications with the Embassy open, and have suggested names (1 and 3). I said that we would be glad to hear from either of them.

Barrios Peña is not trusted by this group whose principal leader is Castillo Armas. Barrios Peña is sitting alone in El Salvador without friends or supporters. It was pointed out that it was strange that Barrios Peña's brother who is a candidate for Mayor of Guatemala City was connected with every unsuccessful attempt against the Governments of Arevalo or Arbenz, but was never arrested.

The recent publications by the CEAUGE, the committee of exiled anti-Communist students in Honduras, outline the platform of the CA group and were made with full authority from CA.

Popadoupolis, the Secretary of the Guardia Judicial, the Secret Police, was founder of the Communist Party in Puerto Barrios.

The Guatemalan Government is trying to purchase some P-51's from Costa Rica.

Clemente Marroquin Rojas, the anti-US, anti-Communist editor of Impacto, etc., is god-father to President Arbenz' son, Jacobito.