

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-624

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD

DATE: 1 JAN 11 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala [] info: Lincoln

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— Distribution of Anti-Communist Books in Guatemala

References: (1) HGG-W-304 (para 4)
(2) HGG-A-628

1. Enclosed is a memorandum relating to the distribution of anti-Communist books in Guatemala by a group of businessmen.
2. Mr. KRIEG has stated that the persons with whom he has been dealing in connection with this matter originally insisted that for personal, business, and financial reasons they did not want their activities to become known or their names a matter of record in connection therewith. They feel with considerable justification that the government might impose heavy sanctions involving the possible loss of business interests here if their activities were publicized. Accordingly, Mr. KRIEG justly feels an obligation to these people to maintain the confidential agreement not to disclose names. It is noted, however, that we have established the identities of some persons who are knowledgeable of or participating in the subject matter. They are identified in a following communication.
3. Mr. KRIEG takes the view that the type of activity under discussion is "white" propaganda even though clandestine factors are involved in distribution. We are inclined to agree, and in view of the other considerations outlined above we do not propose to interfere with the activity. No jurisdictional conflict exists and the operation appears to be fulfilling a desirable objective. In the event that the USIA is in contact with Headquarters for assistance in connection with the acquisition of books, it is recommended that Headquarters give all possible assistance.

George L. Tranger

Enclosure:

Memo as noted

8 January 1954

GLT/cmh

Distribution:

3-Wash w/att
1-Linc w/att
1-Files w/att

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

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