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1	Dep. Asst. Dir. for Operations	[ ]	11 Jan 54
2	DCI J. Mark P. S. Success		
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Remarks: Attached is the full translation of the Pravda article of 14 December referred to in the New York Times of 27 December. As you will note, the article is actually a letter from J. Rodriguez. Also attached is list of references to articles on Guatemala appearing in Pravda and Izvestiya, 1 January-18 December 1953.

FBID material furnished you last week was the full translation of TASS broadcast on the Pravda article.

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"The People of Guatemala Fight for the Independence of Their Nation - A Letter from South America", by J. Rodriguez

For over ten years American monopolies have carried on all possible provocations against Guatemala, with the aim of destroying a regime embarrassing to them, a regime established as a result of the persistent struggle of the people. They are striving to force upon this nation a government which would serve the interests of feudal-imperialist reaction, which would promote the mastery of foreign capitalists in Guatemala, and which would suppress the movements of its masses fighting for its rights and national independence.

In 1944, patriots of Guatemala arose against the government of General Jorge Ubico Casteneda, which had established a military dictatorship surpassing in its cruelty all of the despotic regimes which Guatemala had endured. This government represented the interests of feudal landlords, who interfered with the attainment of democratic freedom in the nation, barbarously oppressed workers and peasants, and destroyed progressively inclined people.

These Guatemalan feudal landlords, in carrying out their policies, enjoyed the support of North American monopolies, to whom they unconditionally granted the basic wealth of Guatemala in return for their police aid. Almost one-fourth of the nation's territory and ports were placed at the disposal of the American United Fruit Company. The railroads were handed over to the International Railways of Central America, and the production of electric power was entrusted to the American firm, The Electric Company. US monopolists robbed the Guatemalan people and looted the natural resources of the nation, and amassed fantastic profits. Had this wealth been left in Guatemala, the nation would have been able, within a year's time and without any difficulty, to double its national budget.

The government of Ubico Castenada was overthrown by the people. From that moment on, the people's movement for democracy, for the improvement of living conditions and national independence began to take on a broader and more decisive scope. The progressive government which came to power, headed by Doctor Juan Jose Arevalo, established democratic freedoms, and limited the influence of foreign monopolies within the country.

All these measures, plus the resoluteness of the new government in defending the nation's interests against foreign monopolists, have evoked in the latter a frenzied anger and an aspiration to destroy the democratic institutions established in Guatemala. Over thirty conspiracies, prepared and financed by foreign monopolies, have been organized against the government of Arevalo. One of these conspiracies was openly directed by the American, Richard Patterson, at that time US ambassador to Guatemala. It was for this reason that the aforementioned gentleman was declared to be "persona non grata" by the Guatemalan people, and the government of Arevalo demanded Patterson's immediate recall by the US State Department.

At the same time the American monopoly, the United Fruit Company, blocked the weakly developed economy of the nation by suspending the movement of merchant vessels under its control, and by refusing to abide by the laws of Guatemala, thus dooming to unemployment and poverty thousands of the nation's workers. All of this was done in order to bring about the overthrow of the democratic government of Guatemala. But these intrigues of foreign monopolists were shattered by a movement of the national masses. The forces of reaction did not succeed in halting the march of democratic forces in Guatemala.

Over the past three years, thanks to the growth of organization and improvement in the morale of the workers and peasants, and thanks to the unity of all of the nation's progressive forces, the people of Guatemala

have made significant strides. Upon demand of the national masses the present government of Guatemala, headed by Colonel Arbenz, successor to Doctor Arevalo, has announced that the national resources and the people of Guatemala shall not be used for an imperialistic war. At the same time, the government of Arbenz has begun to introduce measures directed toward the development of the nation's economy, measures which include construction of new highways, seaports, and hydroelectric power stations, as well as the carrying out of agrarian reforms.

In order to comprehend the significance of the agrarian reforms, one must keep in mind the fact that a feudal regime rules the agriculture of Guatemala, a regime supported by North American monopolies with the aim of keeping Guatemala a source of raw material and of further enslaving the nation. In Guatemala 20 landlords own virtually all the land. This land is passed on, through inheritance, to children and grandchildren and thus remain in the possession of these families. The system of large estates leads to the situation where a portion of the land remains unworked, while the cultivated land is given over mainly to coffee, which comprises the basis for the economy of Guatemala. This coffee is bought up by US monopolists and then resold to other nations.

Thousands of peasants, particularly the broad strata of poor peasantry which comprises over 50% of the nation's total population, do not own even the smallest patch of land. The life of these people is exceptionally difficult; they work from sunrise to sunset but their hard labor does not provide them with even the barest subsistence. The land owners "grant" them only hunger, disease, and death.

The law on agrarian reform, adopted last year as a result of the persistent and prolonged struggle of democratic forces, is destroying the feudal system of landholding in the agriculture of Guatemala. The land is passing from the hands of a small group of feudal owners to the hands of

the people who cultivate it. Large estates, belonging to Guatemalan landlords and foreign companies such as the United Fruit Company, are being broken up and distributed among tenants or transferred to the possession of farmhands, agricultural workers, and soldiers of the Guatemalan army, who, in addition, will receive credits, seed, and fertilizer from the government.

The progressive measures of the Guatemalan government evokes a frenzied anger in the enemies of the Guatemalan people. US monopolists are making great effort to prevent the government of Guatemala from acquiring machinery necessary to the construction of highways, hydroelectric power stations, and ports. The landlords are seeking to obstruct the distribution of land to the peasants, are arranging the murder of peasant leaders, etc. After the collapse of the legal machinations of the United Fruit Company directed against the expropriation of "its" land, the company demanded the intervention of the US State Department.

At the present time, the intrigues of reactionaries against Guatemala are being intensified. The press of the United States of America is openly inciting to armed intervention against Guatemala, employing the false thesis that the democratic regime in Guatemala allegedly "threatens the peace and security of the American continent." And such American public figures as Braden - one of the representatives of the United Fruit Company - puts forth the "thesis" that "action by armed forces of one or several American governments against Guatemala should not be considered intervention."

The reactionary governments of the nations of Central America have united, through the Organization of Central American Nations and military alliances, into an aggressive bloc directed against Guatemala. In the spring of this year its participants organized a military insurrection in the city of Salama. The insurrection was put down by the army of Guatemala and the

national masses. In view of similar provocations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala considered it necessary to inform the United Nations that the people of Guatemala will intensify their efforts in defending their national independence and their democratic regime.

The Guatemalan Workers' Party has called upon all patriots in the nation to come out against the intervention of foreign troops, to develop the movement for peace, and to wage a tireless battle against feudal-imperialist reaction. The Workers' Party has called upon the people to assist in introducing the progressive measures of the Arbenz government in order to achieve an improvement in workers' living standards. It calls for a strengthening of the alliance between workers and peasants, and the unity of workers and of all democratic forces of the nation. Although the interventionist measures of foreign monopolies were overturned thanks to the resolution of the national masses, that does not preclude the possibility that imperialists and their lackeys in Central America will make new efforts at open intervention in Guatemala.

However, the people of Guatemala, despite its smallness, is aware of its strength, and realizes that it is not alone. On its side is the sympathy of all peoples of the world, the growing forces of fighters for democracy and peace.

Throughout all of America workers and all progressively inclined peoples stand solidly with the peoples of Guatemala. "The example of Guatemala," the Communist Party of the United States declared, "shows that even a small and economically backward country, if its people are united under the slogan of the defense of independence and democratic freedoms, is capable of withstanding the pressures and intrigues of more powerful imperialist powers."

Source: Pravda, 14 December 1953, Page 4, Columns 1-5, lower section, 235 lines, full text.

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Articles on Guatemala Appearing in Pravda

and Izvestiya, 1 January-18 December 1953

- Pravda, 31 October, Page 3 -- "USA and Latin America" *le*
- Pravda, 19 October, Page 4 -- "Under a Double Yoke"
- Pravda, 25 September, Page 3 -- "Weapons for the Enslavement of Latin America"
- Izvestiya, 4 October, Page 4 -- "International Notes: Rebuff to American Interference"
- Pravda, 14 September, Page 4 -- "Guatemalan Ambassador Criticizes Tone of United States Note on United Fruit Seizure"
- Pravda, 6 September, Page 4 -- "US Pressures Guatemala"
- Pravda, Izvestiya, 17 July, ~~19~~ Page 4 -- "New York Times Report on the Confiscation of United Fruit Company Property"
- Pravda, 12 July, Page 4 -- Statement by Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs that Guatemala will not take part in Central American conference of foreign ministers.
- Pravda, 12 June, Page 3 -- New York Daily Worker reports that the United Fruit Company played the chief role in the unsuccessful revolt; trial of participants.
- Pravda, 6 May, Page 4 -- Statement by Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs rejecting US demand for compensation for United Fruit Company property.
- Pravda, 28 April, Page 4 -- "On the disclosure of the Anti-Government Conspiracy in Guatemala"
- Pravda, 22 April, Page 4 -- "On the Work of the Guatemalan Confederation of Workers"
- Izvestiya, 19 April, Page 4 -- "On International Topics: In Defense of National Sovereignty" (Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs sends letter to the United Nations)
- Pravda, Izvestiya, 16 April, Page 4 -- Guatemala's withdrawal from the Organization of Central American Nations.
- Pravda, 12 April, Page 3 -- "American Interference in Guatemala's Affairs -- Letter to the UN Secretariat"
- Pravda, Izvestiya, Page 3/4 -- Guatemala withdraws from Organization of Central American Nations because of interference in Guatemala's internal

affairs.

Pravda, 1 March, Page 4 -- "American Company's Land in Guatemala Expropriated"

Pravda, 31 January, Page 3 -- "The People's Determination to Intensify the  
Struggle Against Imperialist Enslavers Grows -- On the Results of

Elections to the Guatemalan National Assembly"

Izvestiya, 28 January, Page 4 -- "Victory of Guatemalan National Liberation Front."

Izvestiya, 24 January, Page 4 -- "The People of Guatemala Vote For Candidates  
of the Progressive Bloc"

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