

NSA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

24 November 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

ATTENTION: [ ] and CWH  
SUBJECT: Operational Security (PBSUCCESS)

1. This will confirm today's discussion with CWH after the meeting with DD/P.

2. The time has come when preparatory work concerning PBSUCCESS makes it necessary to cut in an increasing number of people in varying degrees. Certain of these people get to know about the entire contemplated operation; others are given information strictly on a need-to-know basis. As to the latter, it must be assumed, however, that they are smart enough to realize what is going on, at least in general terms.

Under the circumstances, it is suggested that a record be kept listing everybody who is cut in on PBSUCCESS. Actually, two lists of names could be kept based on the following criteria: (a) those who have actually read the General Plan of Action, dated 11 September 1953 or have received comprehensive briefing concerning same, and (b) those who have been cut in on a need-to-know basis (in sufficient detail so that it may be presumed that they can guess generally what is going on.)

It is suggested that these lists be kept meticulously up to date and record the degree to which the persons in question have been made witting. Examplewise: I can state from memory offhand who are witting relative category (a) above: Dulles. Cabell. Wisner. Helms, J.C. King, [ ] and Tofte. [ ] Barnes, Berry, Leddy,

As to the security of the principal agent now in the United States, it is my impression that he has been left on his own too long down South without adequate protection of any kind of security measures. According to the Station Chief, Guatemala, his present whereabouts in the U.S. are known in Guatemala City. Furthermore, it is reported that one of the attaches of the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington has recently visited the area where the P/A is currently domiciled with family or relatives and presumably engaged in his own private contacts and negotiations with travelling visitors.

Under the circumstances, it would seem inadvisable to have Agency personnel connected with PBSUCCESS visit the P/A at his present address.

Also, it would

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Also, it would appear appropriate to transfer the P/A forthwith to a safe, protected area pending his removal to the forward base area. It is my impression that it would be advantageous to have the P/A near at hand and under complete Agency control at this stage.

[ ]

HANS V. TOFTE  
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C-PP/Ops/HVT:mgd

Distribution:

Cc 1 & 2 of 3 - WH  
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