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SECURITY INFORMATION
CONTACT REPORT

C/R 7

[]

DATE: 1545, 19 November 1953

PLACE: Colonel King's Office

PERSONS PRESENT: Mr. Lampton Berry
Colonels King and []
[] Messrs. [] and []

COVER USED: None

DISCUSSION:

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

1. Mr. Berry said that the Department of State had finally received formal notification from Defense that Defense was ready to proceed with the military assistance agreements to Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador. State was now preparing to write to FOA, and FOA in turn would get the President to declare the three countries eligible for military aid. Colonel King stated that he already had a luncheon engagement for the following week with ranking FOA officials and would press the matter with them at the lunch. Ray Leddy was reported as believing that actual negotiations with the three countries could begin early in December.

2. Colonel King pointed out that the Galvez-Carias split in Honduras might endanger the prospects of ratification of any military assistance agreements by the Honduran Congress. He reported, however, that President Galvez was trying to buy \$500,000 worth of arms in the United States. Colonel King stated that the Agency, through a controlled firm, could furnish the arms much more cheaply. No decision was made as to whether to dispatch a controlled arms dealer to Galvez.

3. Mention of Honduras again brought up the question of the new American Ambassador to Honduras. Mr. Berry said that it was his understanding that Willauer's appointment was well on the way. He promised to speak to General Smith about the appointment right away. Mr. Berry also indicated that the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Honduras would probably have to be replaced.

4. Apropos of the military assistance agreements, [] suggested that a small planning staff be set up immediately by the Pentagon to determine exactly what arms would be supplied to the three countries. He emphasized that the actual arrival of arms within the next few months was even more important than the publicity resulting from the arms negotiations. It was agreed that when such a group is set up [] will be accredited to it in a liaison capacity.

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5. [] thereupon briefed Mr. Berry on the concept and current status of the project.

6. Mr. Berry brought up the question of what was to be done with the various ~~unknown~~ garrisons, particularly the Guatemala City garrisons. [] briefly described the devisive tactics, FI operations, and RM plans to be used.

7. The discussion then turned to the role of the U. S. Army Mission in Guatemala City. It was agreed that debriefing of present members of the U. S. Mission (Army and Air Force) and debriefing of appropriate past American military representatives in Guatemala would be very useful. Mr. Wisner, it was pointed out, had already shown an interest in this matter and would take it up with the Pentagon.

8. Among officers formerly assigned to Guatemala, the names of Colonels [] were mentioned for possible debriefing. It was also agreed that withdrawal of the American Mission from Guatemala would be accomplished, but at an appropriate future time.

9. There was a brief discussion of []. Colonel King stated that [] had produced a great deal of information but that his actual assets had not yet been tested. [] described to Mr. Berry the plans for moving [] to [] []

10. Roberto Barrios y Pena was also discussed. [] expressed the view that the project needed to use all potential assets, and there was general concurrence in that opinion. Mr. Berry suggested that if Barrios y Pena "got his Cadillac too" he might stop his current efforts to undermine RUFUS.

11. There was brief discussion of Mr. [] s cover. Mr. Berry agreed Mr. [] should now finalize his cover arrangements with Mr. Leddy.

12. As for the negotiations with the Navy on office space, [] Colonel King authorized [] to contact Admiral [] Chief of ONI.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the foregoing be implemented.

[]
20 November 1953 []

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