

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE AS SANITIZED

RYBAT

~~SECRET~~

2003

8 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT : Contemplated Arms Purchases by Guatemala

1. [] was approached early this week by

DE LA TORRE, who fronted for PRIO on his arms purchase attempts,

and asked to procure arms and equipment totaling some \$ 4,000,000. DE LA TORRE of course did not state the destination of the arms. The total was to include:

100	105mm howitzers	(Further details will be
2,000	machine guns	furnished by next pouch)
20,000	helmets	

2. On 8 January, Leddy reported that Roberto FANJUL, the Guatemalan Minister of Economy, and Roberto GONZALEZ Juarez, private secretary to ARBENZ, had arrived in Los Angeles on 7 January and gone to San Francisco. OCANA and ARENAS, the two Guatemalan anti-Communists who have been in Washington (and changed their plans to leave and are still in Washington) informed Leddy that the purpose of the FANJUL-GONZALEZ trip is to arrange a \$4,000,000 loan from the BANK OF AMERICA. The reported size of the loan therefore coincides with the size of the arms order.

3. Contact is being established with the BANK OF AMERICA, with a view to finding out as much as possible about the loan request, if it is made, and finally blocking the loan.

4. You will be kept advised.

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