

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

HCG-A-1089

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET

Chief, Lincoln

Chief of Station, Guatemala

Info: Washington

Operational Report  
Essence

1. Attached are two reports from Eliot P. Razmara relating to Essence activities.
2. Initially Essence had hoped to publish "Fobia al 32" and related articles in EL REBELDE (see HCG-A-1082), but before publication could be arranged the police siezed several thousand copies of Issue No. 17, and it was concluded that the police probably would close down the paper if the articles appeared thereafter. Essence then tried to have them printed in the independent press as paid advertisements (para. 10 of Encl. 1). To date they have not appeared, and Razmara has been instructed to recover them and have them prepared in leaflet form for black distribution. Lincoln will be informed by cable as soon as the articles appear so that follow-up action can be taken via Sherwood.
3. Para. 11 of Encl. 1 is a consequence of Nutting's oral request that Razmara study ways and means of getting up a "full head" of psychological steam during the final stages of PBSuccess. "Alfalfa" is the person working with Essence on black activities. His identity and biographic data will be submitted in a separate dispatch.
4. Encl. 2 is a self-explanatory report containing miscellaneous by-product data obtained from Essence.

George L. Tranger

Encl: as noted

17 May 1954

Distribution:

- 2 - Lincoln w/encl
- 2 - Washington w/encl
- 1 - [ ] w/encl
- 1 - Files w/encl

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET

14 May 1954

SUBJECT: Meeting Between CARTER and ALBERTO

1. A meeting occurred between Oscar H. CARTER and ALBERTO on Thursday night, 13 May.

2. The following information was reported by [ ] of the Base Militar.

3. Monday, 10 May, 30 men of the Cuarta Compañía of the Base Militar left by airplane for Puerto Barrios. They were accompanied by four machine guns, calibre 30; two cannon, calibre 75; two anti-aircraft pieces. They were given no date as to when they would return - only that it would probably be within 10 days, more or less.

4. Wednesday night the artillery pieces (report of 11th or 12th May) placed around the Base were dismantled (retirados).

5. Their superiors continue insisting that they will be attacked at any time from outside, and that they must be prepared. Day and night leaves are forbidden, they are restricted to the Base.

6. It is reported that this past week 7 soldiers deserted from the Base; from the Segunda and the Cuarta compañías it is reported that these two compañías still are lacking Sargentos Primeros because of desertion.

7. The following information was received from a capitan (name unknown) stationed at one of the military bases in the departments. (CARTER has sent for the name and post of this man.) The troops are sleeping in the "galpones" (equivalent to stables, supply buildings, etc.) because the government has given orders to mine the Bases proper in order to be able to blow them up upon the entry of Castillo Armas' forces, should the bases have to capitulate. They will not be blown up until after the enemy have occupied the bases.

8. CARTER has had reproduced some 4,000 to 5,000 copies of the Comité Reivindicación Nacional letter. These are being circulated through the departments, and at the Base Militar and other military establishments. Present indications are that this letter is receiving favorable reaction, giving the impression that the opposition is so well organized and planned that they are working on the control of Communists after the present government has been over-thrown.

9. CARTER requests that the following information be passed along to ANABELA and who ever else would be concerned. CARTER does not wish to make any flat charges nor comit an injustice, merely alert ANABELA, etc. to a possible risk - In talking with Darío Soto, of the Comité de Estudiantes anticomunistas, CARTER has gained the impression that this person is "devagado" - lacking enthusiasm and conviction in doing his work. He is one of the later arrivals to the committee (within the past year or 10 months), and his joining seemed motivated more by what he thought he could gain than by what he could contribute. Under pressure, or bribery, it is possible he would easily inform for the police, hence CARTER suggests that nothing of a serious or clandestine nature be connected with this person, nor should it be revealed that there are any connections leading from CEUA and its political associates to the outside or to the underground within Guatemala. Darío Soto was going as representative of FAN to the anti-Communist Congress in Mexico. Now he states in a half-scornful voice that he doesn't want to go, he hasn't any interest in such a congress, etc. When [ ] of "El Rebelde" was before the police in connection with the seizure of the latest "El Rebelde" issues, the police asked [ ] where Darío Soto was, and it appeared he was next on their list for interrogation.

10. The "Fobia al 32" article, as well as the cartoon referring to the clandestine radio station numbers, have been submitted to the newspapers. Whether the papers will print them still remains to be seen.

11. CARTER and ALFALFA are presently going over plans in connection with a final campaign previous to the "action" which will raise the opposition spirits to its maximum point.

CARTER requests that the tear-gas pellets scheduled for the May Day use, and grenades, be gotten to him soonest. these can be used in disrupting meetings, etc., and possibly for terminating a mass in honor of all the persons who have suffered death or imprisonment at the hands of the Guatemalan government because of their anti-Communism. However, CARTER requests that these materials be gotten here previous to the laying on of any set plans, so as not to result in another "May Day" fiasco. They must know upon what they can count, - quantity, sizes, type, ease or difficulty in operation, etc.

12. The next meeting between CARTER and ALBERTO is scheduled for Saturday, 15 May.

[ ]  
ALBERTO

14 May 1954

1. It seems a certainty that the house of Alvaro Hugo Salguero in Ciudad Nueva contains a quantity of arms for use by the government forces. Eight men have been assigned to guard this house (government forces), two men every four hours. CARTER is attempting to obtain the exact address of this house, as well as a floor plan.

2. Following are CARTER's comments concerning the strike in Honduras:

Indications are that the affair in Honduras has a greater importance for the Guatemalan government than appears on the surface. Persons (he doesn't have the names) have been sent by the government to give ideas, etc., to the Honduran workers, and to try and derive a political advantage from the strike. It seems that at bottom is this idea - to assist the opposition (Liberal party) in Honduras to gain the forthcoming elections, inasmuch as the Nationalist party is divided between Carías and Williams. With the Liberals in power, it would be easy for the present Guatemalan government to gain the sympathy of a Liberal government in Honduras and to work in harmony with same - since on more than one occasion the Guatemalan government has attacked Carías, besides having given its support to the strike. This can be the basis for gaining the mass support of the people for a new Honduran regime based along Guatemalan lines. (Furthermore, a goodly number of Liberal Party exiles who are presently in Guatemala would return to Honduras as possible sindical leaders, etc. These persons would be in charge of leading a campaign against the Guatemalan exiles in Honduras, and would be a serious threat to opposition (our) activities.

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