

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE ~~IN FULL~~ AS SANITIZED

ATR POUCH

2003

HTL-A-791

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PESUCCESS / LYBAT

16 ML

Chief of Station, Guatemala

LINCOLN

INFO: PESUCCESS, Headquarters

KUCOWAN

SOFFIT News Summaries

REF: (A) HGG-A-994 (para 3)
(B) GUAT 505

1. The idea of subject news summaries was undoubtedly well conceived but we think that certain modifications are needed to make the best possible use of SOFFIT's talent. All the more important target newspapers are received and read here with little delay: a mere summary of these news, necessarily arriving after the papers themselves, is therefore not very helpful.

2. We suggest that SOFFIT's summaries should contain

- a) significant news which is not in the newspapers, especially popular rumors and trends of public opinion;
- b) comments on the news, whether published or not, which should, however, be political analysis and interpretation and not a simple summary.

We would appreciate it also if he could write his papers in a more concise form.

3. FYI, SOFFIT's material is primarily used for SHERWOOD. For obvious technical reasons, we cannot follow the news day by day via SHERWOOD anyhow. But stories not printed in the target press (for whatever reason) as well as political analysis made on the spot by a qualified observer are badly needed.

4. We are wondering whether you could not possibly utilize SOFFIT's writing talent more directly, i.e. for material to be used by ESSENCE or placed in the independent press through your channels. In view of his apparent reluctance to participate openly in the political struggle, it might be necessary to have his material appear under somebody else's name, or some such arrangement. You might, for instance, turn over to him some of the editorial background material which we are sending you and have him prepare

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articles on the basis of that material -- if you see fit.

5. We do not consider the method of transmittal suggested in GUAT 468 adequately secure since it might conceivably point to the geographical location of LINCOLN and to its ties with you, even though the contents of the SOPFIT reports is obviously not particularly sensitive. Continue therefore to pouch these reports and cable whatever spot news should receive our immediate attention.

[]
JEROME J. DUNBAR

JCD/ EFL/ sgw

16 May 1954

Distribution:

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