

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

AIR POUCH

2003

~~RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET~~

HUL-A- 75/
12 MAY 1954

Acting Chief of Station, Guatemala
FOR: RAZZARA
LINCOLN

INFO: Headquarters

KUGOWN Operational
KUGOWN Tactical Instructions For ESSENCE (Part I)

1. The time has come to give ESSENCE for his organization instructions for the role they are to play in the final phase of our plans. Since these plans must not be disclosed prematurely even to ESSENCE, you will give him the following instructions with the explanation that according to confidential information just received, the government is about to clamp down on any and all anti-Communist groups and activities. The apparent reason for the following instructions is therefore to protect his organization against the expected government reprisals and to insure their functioning even if all anti-Communist activities would be driven underground.

2. ESSENCE is to set up an underground Headquarters, entirely unconnected with his current, more or less overt, activities from which to direct the work described below in a secure manner. All contacts with the underground Headquarters must be safeguarded as completely as circumstances permit, by having traffic in and out of that location limited to the unavoidable minimum, by using dead drops for incoming communications, and so forth.

3. ESSENCE is to concentrate the work of his organization on the following 9 cities, distributing his capabilities according to the relative size and importance of that city:

Guatemala City
Puerto Barrios
Coban
Jutiapa
Zacapa
San Jose
Quezaltenango
Quiche
Marazatenango

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4. He is to appoint a chief for each of the 9 cities listed above who in turn should have a deputy who cannot only assist him but also replace him in case the chief himself would be arrested. The chief should either be a person not known as an active anti-Communist to the authorities in that locality; or if he is known as such, he must go underground, avoid his apartment and his usual haunts, live temporarily in another city district or nearby village or isolated house. If this should prove impractical, ESSENCE would do better to move a man from another city to the place in question, where this man would be entirely unknown and could therefore operate with relative impunity. In this case, the newly introduced city chief would naturally require proper introduction to the local contacts. ESSENCE must take these 9 chiefs and their deputies from amongst the people with whom he has already worked and whom he can trust. There is no time to discover new personnel and to investigate same.

5. Each of these 9 city teams should consist, in addition to its chief and deputy, of people for the following purposes:

One or several liaison men to keep covert contact with all local anti-Communist groups and elements (who will be at the same time the natural carriers for the intended rumor campaign);

An editor, a typist and a mimeograph machine operator for the local production of leaflets and handbills;

Distribution personnel for material either locally produced or imported by us who at the same time might also take care of wall painting and similar operations.

6. Each of the 9 teams should be supplied immediately with the following equipment - which however is not to be used until we give the order and which is therefore to be stored secretly either in business offices where such material will not arouse any suspicion or in the houses of people not known as active anti-Communists and therefore unlikely to be targets of house searches. This material should notably include:

One or several mimeographed machines.

A typewriter (which might be rented or borrowed).

An adequate supply of stencils.

Sufficient paper for the mimeograph machine.

Ink for the mimeograph machine.

Paint for wall painting operations.

(Possibly also the glass etching kits which we are sending to you).

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7. We understand that the police have been checking on the sales of mimeograph machines and any other equipment which might be utilized by subversive groups. It will therefore be necessary to buy such equipment either through business firms which would use it in their normal operations or to buy second hand equipment, if available, which the police might find difficult to check. If neither of these two methods should prove practical, have the material at least bought by somebody from out of town, preferably using phony identity papers (if identification is required to make a purchase) who should be given instructions for a believable cover story as to why and where he is going to use that equipment.

8. The foregoing plan must be implemented on or before the end of May. Report your progress as well as the difficulties encountered as often as possible, by either cable or dispatch. Give us a realistic picture to what extent we may expect ESSENCE and his group to carry out this plan: there is absolutely no point in pinning our hopes on an intended organization which doesn't materialize. Send us also names and other available biographic data on the 9 city chiefs and their deputies to be appointed by ESSENCE. Each city chief should submit as quickly as possible an up-to-date report on the political and psychological situation in his area, listing the leaders, the strengths and the prevailing mood of local organizations supporting the government as well as the elements on which he feels the opposition can rely.

9. You realize of course the importance as well as the extreme sensitivity of the plan presented in this dispatch and will therefore handle it on a strict need-to-know basis, reminding ESSENCE of the security requirements of this plan as well.

10. As soon as we receive your preliminary reports as to how the implementation of this first part of our tactical instructions to ESSENCE progresses, we shall send you Part II. For the time being, ESSENCE is to keep this new organization entirely "in being": they must not undertake any activity until we shall give the word.

[JEROME W. DUNBAR]

[12 May 1954]/b
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