

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

~~2003~~

7 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, RQM/OIS

ATTENTION : [ ]

SUBJECT : Request for Aerial Study

REFERENCE : Memo of 16 April Concerning Same Subject

1. The following area studies for drop-zone information are requested on a highest priority basis from [ ] DGC/ORR. It is requested that [ ] and his staff perform overtime and weekend work in order to complete this request as soon as possible. The area studies are listed below in order of their urgency:

a. Selection of one primary and one alternate drop-zone within an approximate 10 mile radius of Coban. The primary zone should be as close as possible to Coban.

b. Selection of a primary drop-zone in the general area between a point two miles south of Palin extending to the southern outskirts of Amatitlan. The area includes both sides of the highway but should be studied principally on the east side of the highway about 4 miles from the highway. San Vicente Pacaya lies in the approximate center of the area except for the area extending to approximately 5 miles and lying south of Palin.

c. Selection of a primary drop-zone within an approximate 10 mile radius of El Rancho.

d. Selection of a primary drop-zone within an approximate 10 mile radius of Encuentros. The preferred location would be in an easterly direction of the Pan American highway from Encuentros along the southern side.

2. The highest priority is placed on area (a) above, which should be initiated immediately, holding up other work being performed by [ ] for this office if necessary. It is requested that the drop-zones be selected on a preliminary basis and followed up later with verification and sketches. If adequate photographic coverage proves difficult to obtain, please inform Mr. Hanke, x - 4235, who can possibly obtain single shots of such areas from the persons requesting this information.

EYES ONLY

~~SECRET~~

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3. [ ] should advise this office immediately if his preliminary studies indicate difficulty in locating suitable zones with the strict limits defined for each of the above areas, since a limited change in the delineation of the areas may be possible after discussion with the originators of the request.

4. The general pattern in which the studies are to be made should be as outlined in our referenced memorandum which stated:

- a. Locate all possible drop-zones away from main roads in least populated areas.
- b. Show approaches to nearest vehicular road.
- c. Indicate altitude of drop-zones.
- d. Pin-point terrain obstacles for a radius of 5 miles.
- e. Include with the above analysis a copy of the aerial photographs from which the study is made.

The above instructions are particularly applicable to area (a).

5. It is requested that [ ] inform this office immediately of the estimated time of completion of this request.

[ ]

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