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7 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: CWH  
FROM : [ ]  
SUBJECT : Interim Report - Operation SALEM

1. The objectives of operation SALEM were:

- a. To manipulate the ICFTU-ORIT into open opposition to Arbenz and the present Guatemalan government.
- b. To cover up other covert activities of PBSUCCESS.
- c. To establish an anti-Arbenz, anti-Guatemalan government labor mechanism for propaganda purposes.
- d. To indicate to Guatemalan trade unionists that there were other "progressive" sources of support besides the WFTU and the Communist apparatus.

2. SALEM was held 1-3 May in Mexico City and preliminary reports from ODACID and KUBARK sources indicate the following accomplishments:

- a. Guatemalan trade unionists in exile played a prominent role in SALEM activities.
- b. The first issue of a monthly bulletin, EL OBRERO LIBRE, carrying several anti-Arbenz articles, was issued under the editorship of Ruben Villatoro, leader of the Guatemalan Trade Unionists in Exile. The publication will be transmitted through ORIT channels to 5,000 workers in Guatemala.
- c. The exiled trade unionists marched in the Mexican May Day Parade. A banner of the Guatemalan Exiled Trade Unionists was carried. Photo coverage of this event was accomplished.
- d. Villatoro delivered an anti-Arbenz speech which was delivered at the opening session of SALEM. Five thousand (5,000) copies were mailed throughout the Hemisphere and Guatemala.

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- 2 -

e. A front page story covering SALEM was carried in the Mexican newspaper with the largest circulation, "Novedades".

f. The AFL Latin-American representative is making efforts to have the Guatemalan Trade Unionists in Exile made an affiliate of ORIT.

g. Further publicity for SALEM is anticipated through the auspices of the ORIT Secretary of Press and Propaganda.

3. Exploitation of SALEM has been directed to select WH stations and all PBSUCCESS stations.

4. A full report on SALEM will be submitted upon the receipt of additional information.

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