

## CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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DISPATCH NO. HULA-600

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PBSUCCESS / RYBAT  
CLASSIFICATION

DATE 30 APR 1954

TO PBSUCCESS , Headquarters

FROM LINCOLN

INFO: Chief of Station, Guatemala

SUBJECT { GENERAL KUGOWN  
SPECIFIC Possible Attacks against ARBENZ

1. Driving a wedge between ARBENZ and the Guatemalan CP appears to be one of the major possibilities for reducing the government's ability to react successfully on D-Day. This could be done either by arousing distrust in ARBENZ against the CP or by arousing distrust in the CP against ARBENZ. The purpose of the present dispatch is to review several such possibilities and to obtain from you soonest information as to their technical feasibility. Chief of Station, Guatemala, is invited at the same time to submit his comments to LINCOLN.

2. We might make it appear as if the Communists consider ARBENZ as some kind of Kerensky or like one of the non-communist figureheads used in the first coalition governments in the satellite countries, useful for a limited time and purpose, but then definitely to be disposed of. This alleged opinion ( not necessarily of the Guatemalan CP leaders, but of Moscow ) might be documented in one of two possible ways:

- a. If KUBARK has anywhere, perhaps in Europe or in Asia, an agent with access to a leftist, fellow-traveling ( not outright CP ) newspaper or periodical, we might plant through that agent an article reviewing developments in Guatemala from a leftist, pro-CP viewpoint, recognizing ARBENZ' past merits, but indicating that his usefulness is rapidly coming to an end, that he has not the required Marxist - Leninist training nor the leadership qualities to complete Guatemala's development into a people's democracy and that he will therefore have to be removed;
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- b. If (a) is not feasible, we might/produce a clipping from a Soviet periodical -- preferably one which is not likely to be on file in Guatemala for a quick check, such as the KOMMUNIST ( organ for CPSU party officials), the AGITATOR'S NOTEBOOK or the LITERARY GAZETTE -- in which the same thoughts as under (a) would be expressed.

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It would not seem absolutely necessary to reproduce the entire periodical but perhaps just the clipping with adjoining parts of the paper.

In either case, (a) or (b), the article with a Spanish translation attached might be transmitted to one or several Guatemalan diplomatic missions abroad, requesting that it be brought to the attention of the President, but also given to a suitable Latin American news or feature agency for distribution to the press of the hemisphere.

3. If we have anywhere contact with a recent Soviet defector who was in a position where he could possibly know about Soviet - communist plans in Latin America, we might induce him to make a public statement as outlined in para 2 above.

4. If, on the contrary, we want primarily to arouse distrust on the part of the CP, we should take steps to make it appear as if ARBENZ either

- a. is preparing to flee from Guatemala, having begun to transfer his considerable financial assets to a safe haven, possibly to Argentina (?); or
- b. feels increasingly uneasy about the ascendancy of his communist allies and has therefore begun to engage in secret negotiations either with President Peron of Argentina or with unspecified officials in the US.

Alternative (a) might be started by an item in a gossip column in a newspaper in Argentina -- provided, there is such a column and we can gain access to it --, perhaps asking "which leading personality from Central America has instructed a well-known real estate firm to obtain a hacienda for him under an assumed name?", which could then "find its way" into papers closer to Guatemala (if not right there). Alternative (b) might be implemented by writing a letter (perhaps to Mrs. ARBENZ, from some alleged "go-between" in those alleged secret negotiations), in such a way that it is likely to be intercepted by Guatemalan censorship, thus coming to the attention of the CP leaders. Another way might be to have a Guatemalan exile (or some other likely informant) approach a Guatemalan diplomat abroad (to be selected for his CP connections), offering him a report on those negotiations.

5. Minor irritants, to be thrown between ARBENZ and the CP might include rumors such as the following:

- a. The CP is demanding that ARBENZ' huge real estate be made also subject to the agrarian reform, to set an example;

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- b. The CP has more confidence in Mrs. ARBENZ than in her husband, realizing that his morphine addiction makes him unfit to preserve the innermost secrets of Soviet-Communist plans for Guatemala.

6. Irritants, as suggested in the preceding para, could be released immediately, p implemented in part by cartoons in our controlled press etc. The major "wedges", however, suggested in paras 2-4 above, should be timed to become effective not earlier than approximately D-10. But they will require time-consuming preparations and we request therefore that you give this matter your immediate attention, informing us of the existing possibilities, operationally and policy-wise and assisting us in implementing the selected alternatives.

[ ]  
WILLIAM D. PLAYDON

WCP/ EFL/ sgw  
30 April 1954  
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