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VIA Air

DISPATCH NO. [] 1735

PBSUCCESS/RYPAT #109

TO Chief, Western Hemisphere and
Chief of Mission, LINCOLN []
FROM []
SUBJECT General - KUGOWN Operations
Specific - Florencio AVILA Sanchez

DATE 20 April 1954

REFERENCES: [] -067, 9 April 1954
[] -048, 1 April 1954
LINC-1360, 29 March 1954.

In furtherance of references, we are enclosing the translated pertinent portions of a report submitted by LIBETHENITE-4.

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

[]
Royd I. Rolenaer

2003

BIR/cav
Attach.
cc: 3 - Wash.
1 - Linc.
1 - Files

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Apparently during his stay in the U.S., Florencio Avila was able to induce Meany, and someone else belonging to the American Federation of Labor, to take action against the present situation in Guatemala.

His mission for the AFL (the details of which not even Prieto Laurens knows) was to make a general survey throughout Central America and Mexico of communism in labor. Of course, he travelled as a representative of OVACIONES, one of the papers of the GARCIA VALSECA chain, and thus posed as a friend to the Guatemalan, Salvadorean, Honduranian, Nicaraguan and probably Costa Rican governments. He had on his agenda interviews with Arbenz and other prominent politicians, but his real mission was to make personal observations concerning the possibility of the AFL taking definite action against communism in labor.

In talking about the (U.S.) Department of State, and the possibility of approaching someone in the high echelons of the U.S. Government, he said plainly: "Americans are confused about politics the world over." Nobody has been able to ascertain the reasons for so many errors, and they maintain a stubborn attitude in spite of all the mishaps experienced so far. Trying to convince Moors Cabot, in charge of Latin American affairs, is like "bumping (your head) against a stone wall."

So the AFL has decided to take matters into their own hands. The first step might be the barring of Guatemalan shores to any imports by persuading dock workers to refuse to unload ships. Then they can foster a well-organized move to invade the country.

This, Avila said, he wants to keep a secret between the two of us..... otherwise, we fail.....

In my opinion, AVILA is trying to get money out of Arbenz to use for his campaign. He is to take off Wednesday the 17th, and plans to stay in Guatemala for 10 days; then to El Salvador, where he will get in touch with General Idigoras; from there to Honduras, where he will have an interview with Col. Castillo Armas and finally to Nicaragua, where he intends to see General Somoza. He will receive sufficient funds to accomplish his task.

He also mentioned that he carries a secret assignment from the FBI: to find out if those two refugees, deserters from the U.S. Army and sheltered by the Guatemalan Government (one a colored fellow, very smart, very resourceful and very courageous) are in Guatemala and to see if there is a chance to kidnap them and deliver them to the U.S.....

It would be wise to watch this fellow very closely.

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