

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

ROUTING FORM
Doc No.:

Date:

Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments thereunder by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action is completed and ready for filing. This cover sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO

FROM

DATE

Changed my mind

(a) Standardize Item #2, eliminate source + reference to Ydigoras

(b) Expand on Item #4

(c) Expand Item #5

(d) Big play for Item #11.

Prepare for Wed punch (21 April) to

copies to WHD

Covering dispatch should urge use in controlled + other outlets in support of PBSUCCESS

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

10. OCELLANEUS NEWS DIGEST

GUATEMALA CITY, C.A.

April 8, 1954

1. According to a friend the Central Committee of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) is holding regular meetings attended by representatives of all the communist and pro-communist youth organizations in Guatemala for the purpose of coordinating all phases of PGT action. At each of the meetings delegates are selected to travel to the various parts of the country to distribute propaganda. Youths between the ages of 18 and 26 are usually chosen for these assignments as part of their training as party "activists."
(B41)
2. Colonel Manuel NATARENO of army general headquarters in Guatemala City told a friend that he is not sympathetic toward the present government, that the army is in bad repute vis-a-vis the public, and that mutual distrust is rampant among officer personnel. He said that each officer looks upon his brother officers as government informants and that all feel themselves to be under constant surveillance. He expressed the opinion that the dignity and honor of the army has been destroyed by the commanders who allow the constitution to be trampled under foot by the communists. Because of this, NATARENO said that he and many fellow officers are waiting and hoping for the call to fight for a change in government. After expressing a preference for Carlos CASTILLO Armas (as opposed to IDIGORAS Fuentes), NATARENO said that he could not understand why the opposition (which according to him enjoys the sympathy of 80% of the people) was delaying so long in starting the oft-reported revolutionary movement. He claimed that the uncertainty and delay was causing people to lose faith and hope.
(C7h)
3. Salvador PEREZ, a member of the Partido Renovación Nacional, stated in the presence of a friend that Congressman Alejandro REVOLORIO did in fact fire the shots (at the recent RN convention) that killed two persons and gravely wounded a third. PEREZ declared that REVOLORIO was drunk at the time. He also stated that the Frente Democratico Nacional (FDN), comprised of pro-government "revolutionary" parties, deliberately planned to deny REVOLORIO's guilt and protect him from prosecution. PEREZ doubted that the public could be deceived into believing that REVOLORIO is innocent.
(B51)
4. President ARBENZ received a note from the Russian Embassy in Mexico congratulating him for the valiant action and conduct of Guillermo TORIELLO and the Guatemalan delegation at the Caracas Conference.
(C71)

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5. The PGT met Monday, April 5, 1954 to compose a proclamation indicating that they were temporarily suspending activities. Carlos Manuel PELIECER, Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ and Alfonso SOLORZANO agreed that only in case of emergency would this decision be publicized, and that for the present it would be kept confidential.
(C71)
6. Rodolfo HAUSNER departed 5 April 1954 for the United States entrusted with missions for the Guatemalan Government.
(C7h)
7. The Frente Democrático Nacional decided at its meeting on 1 April 1954 to organize a "Frente de Masas" for the defense of national sovereignty and against intervention.
(C71)
8. According to radio news received by Minister of Defense José Ángel SANCHEZ, a shipment of planes destined for Guatemala has been confiscated.
(C71)
9. A member of the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG) told a friend that the executive committee of the CGTG is busily planning for the upcoming May Day celebration. Invitations are being sent to all labor organizations, "democratic" groups, teachers, intellectuals, youth organizations, etc. Discussions are being held to prepare appropriate propaganda for distribution during May Day festivities. Special attention is given to anti-American propaganda, including protests against the economic boycott that "Yankee" imperialism is exercising over Guatemala. Also due for renewed emphasis will be national defense, support of ARBENZ, industrial development, agrarian reform, higher salaries for factory and rural workers.
(B31)
10. Retired Lieutenant Julio GIL del Valle recently disclosed to a friend that he is disposed to take part in any movement designed to bring about a change of government. He expressed the belief that "thousands are similarly disposed, including many army officers (both active and inactive). GIL del Valle added that he and other sympathizers are still in doubt as to whether the anti-government movement is in favor of Carlos CASTILLO Armas or IDIGORAS Fuentes. He said that he had consulted some of the leaders of the movement and had been told that "Castillo or Idigoras is the same, they are both fighting for the same thing." According to Gil del Valle, opposition sympathizers are forever asking when action against the government is coming. He claims that many people are losing patience and enthusiasm, but asserted that everything is well organized. He specifically mentioned the existence of "prepared" groups adjacent to the capital and in the departments. "All that is lacking is the decision of those who command," he concluded.
(C7h)

11. The funds needed to carry out the assassination of SOMOZA and a revolution in Nicaragua were supplied by the Guatemalan Government, \$300,000 having been delivered in Guatemala City to Luis BAEZ Bone for this purpose. Once SOMOZA was liquidated, Guatemala was obliged by an agreement between ARBENZ and Francisco IBARRA Mayorga, resident of Costa Rica, to send machine guns, rifles, etc. to Nicaragua. Such equipment appears to be ready and stored in Merida, Mexico awaiting shipment to Nicaragua at the necessary time. Those charged with the organization and execution of the plan for Guatemalan aid were Ambassadors Gabino SANTIZO Roman in Managua and Ismael GONZALEZ Arevalo in Costa Rica. President FIGUERES of Costa Rica was obligated to send 300 well-armed troops to the Nicaraguan frontier to cooperate in the Nicaraguan revolution once SOMOZA was dead.
(C7h)
12. On 6 April 1954 President Arbenz met in the National Palace with military chiefs and ordered them to take all possible military measures and precautions in case SOMOZA should retaliate against Guatemala through aerial attack, etc.
(C7h)
13. One of 12 signers of a full page protest, which appeared in the press on March 29, stated on March 30 that the police had already been to his home looking for him and he said that while he could take refuge in the Salvadoran Embassy he preferred to "stay and fight." He added that the 11 other signers were known for their courage and would also put up a fight.
(B61)
14. A friend recently talked to Perfecto VILLEGAS of Quezaltenango who said that he regularly comes to the capital to receive instructions from supporters of Juan CORDOVA Cerna who are actively working for the cause of Carlos CASTILLO Armas. VILLEGAS stated that in his travels to other departments for the purpose of contacting members of anti-government groups he found that CASTILLO Armas is highly regarded except in the Quezaltenango area where the majority are IDIGORISTAS. VILLEGAS added that Gregorio DIAZ (a former presidential candidate) is ostensibly promoting the cause of IDIGORAS Fuentes, having received considerable sums of money for that purpose, but he is in reality planning to try again for the presidency himself. DIAZ, according to VILLEGAS, is supported by Adan Henrique RIOS and Manuel ORSELLANA and some leaders of the Partido Unificación Anticomunista (PUA) such as Juan ARRIVELLAGA and Abraham CABRERA Cruz.
(C71)