

VIA: AIR
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Lincoln
DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-870

PBSUCCESS/RYPAT/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Lincoln
FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala
SUBJECT: GENERAL— KUGOWN Operations
SPECIFIC— The ESSENCE Project
Reference - HUL-A-374

DATE: APR 6 1954

INFO: Washington
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
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1. One of the first steps I took after my return from Lincoln was to have George I. TRANGER brief me concerning the ESSENCE Project and then arrange for a meeting between RAZMARA and me. I considered this meeting desirable because RAZMARA needed to be assured that he was not forgotten and that, to the contrary, he could expect to receive my full support and encouragement in his handling of this delicate operation. Furthermore I believed it would do much for his morale and would tend to give greater weight to TRANGER's and my recommendations concerning desired changes in structure and procedures with respect to the ESSENCE operation.
2. I found RAZMARA enthusiastic and greatly desirous to effect the changes and innovations which TRANGER and I discussed with him.
3. You may rest assured that neither RAZMARA nor TRANGER is pessimistic concerning the ESSENCE Project, and RAZMARA reports that ESSENCE himself is much in favor of a more dynamic stand and procedure as set forth by TRANGER in his recent assessment of this project. We fully intend to follow the "chin up" policy recommended by HUL-A-374.
4. As pointed out in HGG-A-793 there has been a tendency for some ESSENCE followers to view our past propaganda efforts with a jaundiced eye. However, we do not believe that the feeling is either unanimous or unchangeable. To the contrary it is our firm belief that all that was needed was to inject new spirit or rather to bolster up spirits which had somewhat fallen. We are going through a shakedown period, and we believe that the lessons learned will enable us to organize and channel our efforts to effect a major contribution to the fulfillment of PBSUCCESS objectives.
5. Emotional letdowns and morale problems are inherent in this type of operation, and we expect to have our share of these in the future. When they appear they will be realistically reported so that you will have an accurate picture of the situation, but we wish to assure you that we are well aware of our responsibility of bolstering sagging morale, and we believe that these temporary setbacks can and will be solved here on this level. Nevertheless, your comments, criticisms and guidance will always be appreciated.

5 April 1954
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Earle N. Banister
8 APR 1954
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