

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

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2003

5 April 1954

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE : 2 April 1954

PARTICIPANTS : Terence E. GASSETT
Milton V
Marion
Marion's Assistant

I. Map Preparation and Aerial Photo Interpretation.

1. Mr. V. of Geography met with GASSETT in this office to discuss further work on this subject. GASSETT emphasized that everything undertaken from now on is to be on rush priority basis. Any necessary overtime or special effort will be authorized by ASCHAM.

2. Deadline for further work and procurement by Geography is 12 April, for delivery to LINCOLN by 15 April.

3. Regarding progress to date on maps, the following was reported and discussed:

- a. Base maps prepared by Geography - 60 remaining copies are to be held by Geography until further notice from LINCOLN.
- b. Cloth maps treated with fluorescent coating - experiments have been completed and Geography considers the product satisfactory. Five maps were requested by GASSETT and V stated they can be ready for 15 April deadline.
- c. Flashlights for use with fluorescent maps - Geography also has completed experiments with black light lenses for use in flashlights and finds that 3-ohm flashlights will be satisfactory.
- d. The cost of flashlights equipped with special lens will not exceed \$5.00 per unit.
- e. GASSETT requested immediate action by Geography to obtain 10 flashlights; case necessary is to be supplied by RCH/KULYEX from PBSUCCESS fund.

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f. It was specified that black light box or similar special heavy equipment is not desired.

4. Regarding progress to date and future work on photo interpretation, the following was reported and discussed:

- a. The highest priority is to be given completion of interpretation (overlays) on the total area of interest. Deadline for completion is 12 April.
- b. Overlays on film are desired, three copies only.
- c. The coverage desired is described in a list supplied by LINCOLN of which copies will be delivered to Geography 5 April.
- d. GASSETT requested that all available photographs which may aid or supplement interpretation be supplied with target studies.
- e. LINCOLN expects to send to Hqs next week a target specialist. She will get in touch with RQM and arrangements will be made for her to spend one or two days in consultation with Geography.
- f. GASSETT placed great stress on the urgency of this requirement. He asked whether we can get 100% coverage in area photography. V said that all photographs must be borrowed from the Air Corps and to get fastest service it might be necessary to make arrangements for borrowing their master copies.
- g. It was agreed that RQM will discuss the question of overtime and priority requirement with V's superior to arrange for fastest service on borrowing Air Corps photographs.
- h. Chief, RQM branch joined the meeting briefly and reviewed the details of the foregoing requirement and the responsibility RQM branch will have in fulfilling it.

5. Aerial photos ^{enlargements} of six cities:

- a. GASSETT requested immediate preparation of air photos for use at LINCOLN of the following:

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- (1) Guatemala City
- (2) Masatenango
- (3) San Jose (secondary importance)
- (4) Quiche
- (5) Coban
- (6) Zacapata

b. GASSETT discussed some of the details of his requirement on aerial photographs with V who then left the meeting.

II. GASSETT requested RQM to obtain as soon as possible on priority basis duplicate copies of all photographs of Guatemala obtained by Graphics from Life Magazine.

Marion's assistant told him she had checked regarding photographs with Graphics and found that at his request LINCOLN was allowed to borrow master copies of these photographs and it will be difficult to obtain duplicates. He requested that we go to Life Magazine directly (through KUJUMP), if necessary, to obtain a duplicate set of these pictures and, if possible, more recent photographs. He stressed that LINCOLN requires immediately copies of the total available collection.

III GASSETT requested procurement of a Spanish-English Military Dictionary.

IV Deliveries of Aviation gasoline is requested to renew efforts on high priority basis to obtain full data on this subject. We are authorized to go through IDEN C if necessary.

1. Action on this request has been initiated with KUJUMP and will be stressed again. Details of the requirement described by GASSETT in this conversation will be transmitted to KUJUMP.

V. Technical data regarding weather conditions:

1. The previous request on this subject received by RQM was discussed with GASSETT and it was explained that at the time the request was received no indication of pressing urgency was given a security measure, pending further instructions, Geography did not make a crash request for data from other agencies but has completed some of the work required.

2. Preliminary data has been supplied and further details will be procured on a rush basis.

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3. (After GASSETT left this office IDEN D of Geography prepared at our request a draft of the material he had already collected on tides, which draft was delivered to GASSETT later that evening. At that time Marion checked with GASSETT the data obtained from Air Maritime regarding fog and night visibility. This study appeared to be adequate so far as air operations are concerned but inadequate for surface operations. It was agreed that Geography be requested to obtain further detail on that subject and more specific details on rainfall and seasonality.)

VI Enclosures to military attache reports:

1. GASSETT gave Marion's assistant a list of 14 MA reports from Guatemala with the request that copies of all enclosures, attachments and references mentioned in them be obtained on rush basis.

2. The list contains numbers of one or two reports previously requested and already delivered to WH Office.

VII Clipping Service:

1. The present clipping service supplied by KUBARK Library, and mailed daily from this office is not adequate for PBSUCCESS needs. More comprehensive and faster service is desired.

2. GASSETT requested RQM to arrange immediately for a direct subscription to a professional press clipping service in New York.

3. Coverage is to be everything pertaining to Guatemala and the Caribbean area. This includes economic, travel and all other information. All U. S. press is desired plus the Spanish language La Prensa of New York.

4. This service is desired twice daily, to be sent directly by air mail and is to be on twenty-four hour basis including Saturdays and Sundays.

VIII Psychological support -- radio programs:

1. GASSETT defined the requirement for radio support to the effect that no program series are contemplated. Miscellaneous filler material is desired.

2. Records are to be selected with a view to furnishing a library from which program ideas can be drawn or program tapes made up for spot use as desired.

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3. It was explained that the record selections already made were chosen to serve as the basis for program series using repeated themes.

4. It was agreed that RQM will ship immediately all of the useable records which have been collected and will procure additional records for the use now desired.

5. The selection is to include European classics, boleros, sambas, and current hits. Folk music as available is to be included.

6. Sound effects - GASSETT explained that the previous request for sound effect records was intended to provide sound effects which could be used for identifying signals. It was explained to him that sound effect records were not readily obtainable but that a sample tape recording was being made through the facilities of KUBARK Photo Division. Marion's assistant stated that she also has purchased two records containing possible theme music for identification.

7. GASSETT stressed that quantity and variety are desired. He also requested that when records are selected with some possible special use in mind a descriptive note to this effect be sent with them.

IX Miscellaneous psychological supports:

1. Anti-Communist cartoons of Latin American origin are desired. This requirement has already been laid down with WE/KUGOWN. RQM will not attempt a special search for this material.

2. Maya legends and folk lore - GASSETT explained that no special effort to collect materials on this subject is desired but materials which may be useful to give ideas will be appreciated.

3. The previous request for bits of gossip and rumors is not urgent as the subject is being covered adequately at LINCOLN.

4. The previous request for photographs of torture scenes was discussed and it was agreed to turn this problem over to KURIOT, as a survey of Graphics has shown nothing useable from that source. Graphics is continuing a search however.

X Possible additional supports:

1. Marion and her assistant suggested the possibility of developing the situation of the Indians under Communist leadership in the vicinity of Escontia for tactical support. GASSETT said that he thought an outline of this subject would be of interest.

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2. They also raised the question of developing information on possible defectors or persons of interest to a future reorganization of the government and suggested one or two names which had come to their attention in the course of research in connection with the Garsons conference. CASSETT stated that summary data on these individuals was of possible interest.

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