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VIA Air Pouch

DISPATCH NO. [ ] 1669

PBSUCCESS/RYPAT #96

TO Chief of Mission, Lincoln

DATE 30 March 1954

FROM [ ]

INFO: Guat., Wash.

SUBJECT General - KUGOWN Operations

Specific - Reports on CASTILLO Armas

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

For your information we herewith forward the translations of two memoranda sent to LIBETHENITE-4 by Antonio UROZ, a correspondent for Mexico City's "El Universal" who was dispatched by LIBETHENITE-4 to cover the Caracas Conference but who never got further than El Salvador (a situation which we are now endeavoring to rectify). The memoranda were given to UROZ by Miguel IDIGORAS Fuentes. The author is not known.

Boyd I. Rolender

BIR/cav  
Attach.  
cc: 1 - Linc. (w/attach.)  
3 - Wash. "  
1 - Guat. "  
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13 February 1954

My dear friend:

Today I have finally found time to write a short summary of the events which have taken place in accordance with the Cominform Arevalo-Betancourt plan. The following questions are to be answered by you:

1. CASTILLO Armas' Activities -

Do you believe that Arbenz has been unaware of Armas' activities during three years?

Do you know that the brother of the assassin, Ctan. Francisco Morazan, has been the intermediary between Arbenz and Castillo? I believe his name is Jose Morazan - he is the right-hand man and adviser of Arbenz and is next to Pres. Galvez.

Do you know that the Honduran engineer (Juan Angel) Nunez Aguilar and Francisco Morazan enter and leave Honduras at their will? (Note: Nunez Aguilar is Asst. Mgr. of the Banco Nacional de Guatemala: INFORP. He is Agricultural Technical Adviser; Arevalo's protector in Argentina; Agricultural Engineer; and a Leftist).

Aren't you surprised that Guatemala's accusation is not directed at Honduras, Castillo Armas' base of operations?

Have you thought of the advantage it would be to Arbenz if Castillo Armas controlled all exiles possible and did not allow other opposing groups in Honduras or El Salvador?

Have you thought about Guillermo Sosa and De La Vega's disgraceful expulsion from El Salvador by Rubio Melhado, the Salvadorian Ambassador in Honduras, upon Armas' orders because they got out of hand?

Are you aware of the fact that only certain documents can be found against Miguel Idigoras Fuentes and Roberto Barrios Pena and none against the other emigrants who were paid by Armas? Have you noticed that Beltranena and [ ] - the strength and brain of Castillo Armas in Guatemala - received word from out of nowhere to flee to the Salvadorian Embassy? Do you already know that photostats of Castillo Armas' letters to [ ] which were in Arbenz' possession since December 1953, would have prompted their capture as of that date and they would not have fled?

Have you noticed that the only ones exiled who are not in agreement with Castillo Armas are two or three proud individuals?

Have you noticed that those persons who are not with Castillo Armas are pursued outside of Honduras?

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Have you noticed that all our subversive movements within Guatemala which have been made with Castillo Armas' knowledge have failed?

Is it necessary to give you further demonstrations of Arbenz-Castillo Armas-Pres. Galvez-Pres. Osorio's relations and of their driver at Don Tiburcio, the Guatemalan people, yourself and myself?

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MEMORANDUM

On 10 November 1950 the presidential elections began in Guatemala. The main opponents were the official candidate - Jacobo Arbens - and Miguel Idigoras Fuentes of the opposition party.

Both parties worked hard and organized workers to form 411 electoral boards throughout the republic. He had to delegate them to reject voters, to demand the inclusion of voters, to draw up and execute complaints and had them memorize the laws pertaining to elections. The most important job was to find volunteers who had enough courage to stand up under official pressure.

On Sunday, 5 November 1950, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas arrived at the Military Base in Aurora with 47 companions. They were massacred and killed with sub-machine guns in a surprise attack. The only survivors were Sr. Arrivillaga, who broke his spine in two places, and Castillo Armas, who was unhurt.

The bodies were photographed, but many were unidentifiable because the fusillade had left them mutilated.

Castillo Armas and Lt. Pedroz, who was his accomplice in the barracks, were imprisoned in the Penitenciaría Central and placed in the horrible cells called "Politician's Alley" where there is night and day vigilance. There has never been a successful escape and there never will be regardless of what people may say.

According to their story, Castillo Armas and four other prisoners, without the help of the remaining prisoners who were unaware of their plans, dug a tunnel 18 meters long into the ground, first horizontally and then vertically, in order to get under the foundation of the wall which extended at least 3 meters underground. No one knows where they hid the dirt they dug, nor at what time they worked without being seen or surprised by the guards who continually search the floors and walls.

The escapees took refuge in Embassies; then the prisoners who accompanied Castillo fled to the border and escaped.

A Guatemalan Army official related the following version to reliable sources:

"I had a lover who lived on the last block of Sur de la 2a. Av. which meets with the north boundary of the Penitenciaría Central de Guatemala. One morning, around 7 a.m., I was silently leaving my lover's house when I heard footsteps of several persons running along that avenue. I waited, looking through the door barely opened, and was very surprised to see Col. Castillo Armas go by with a sergeant in a guard's uniform. I followed them at a distance and saw them arrive at the side door of the penitentiary, knock and enter."

The story being told around town is that Col. Castillo Armas was taken out by the main door with the assistance of the authorities and was given an opportunity to reach the Colombian Legation.

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