24 MAR 1954

TO: [ ] [ ]
FROM: LINCOLN

COS, Guat

Subject: General - PSUCCESS

Specific - Character Assassination of Rogelio CRUZ Wer

1. It is requested that the addressees make the most of achieving publication of the attached CP carnet of Rogelio CRUZ Wer. If possible, the attached press release should be used in conjunction with the photos of the CP carnet. (Note: The press release to be used by Mexico is different from that to be used by the other addresses. Neither of these press releases is to be used within Guatemala. The Guatemala Station may be able to propagate this story through rumor channels.)

2. Extra copies of the photographs are attached for the Guatemala Station with the thought that ESSENCE may have some special use for them.

3. LINCOLN requests a report of your action as well as a report on public reaction to this operation.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachments:
A. Press Release for Mexico (To GUAT & GUAT only)
B. Press Release for (for these addresses & Guat)
C. Photo of CP carnet
D. Photo of inside of CP carnet

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Distribution:
1- [w/att A; att C-10 copies; att D in dup1]
1- [w/att B; att C-10 copies; att D in dup1]
2- Guat (w/att A; att B; att C-5 copies; att D in dup1)
2- Extras (w/att A & B)
7- LINCOL (w/2 copy each att)
The most startling development on the Guatemalan political front has just been reported by an unimpeachable source. According to this source, Jaime DIAZ Rozsotto, Secretary General of the Presidency and Secretary General of the PRN, is currently engaging in a series of secret conferences with Rogelio CRUZ Wer, Chief of the Guardia Civil. DIAZ Rozsotto, after sounding out CRUZ Wer, drew from the latter a direct proposal for a joint coup d'état against the ARBENZ regime. According to the joint plans developed by them, DIAZ Rozsotto is to become the political chief and CRUZ Wer the military chief of the rebellion. For this purpose, DIAZ Rozsotto is secretly to mobilize the support of a number of influential members of the Guatemalan Congress, whereas CRUZ Wer will provide the military strength through his influence in the Guardia Civil and through Communist-trained partisan forces.

Each party to the conspiracy pledged the other to silence. But the information on their plans, according to our source, leaked out through the first supporters that they attempted to gain. It is known that, as of the date of this publication, President ARBENZ is not informed of these plans.

This is the first concrete evidence of the Communist plans for an outright coup in Guatemala. Rumors of a deliberate Communist coup have frequently been circulated but have never so clearly come to light as they have through the DIAZ Rozsotto-CRUZ Wer talks. DIAZ Rozsotto is known to be a secret member of the PGT and, in that capacity, has long
been influential in making the PRN completely amenable to Communist
dictates. CRUZ Wer, whose PGT membership card is reproduced below,
is likewise a confirmed Communist and principal organizer of the
underground Communist armed forces which are to be directed against
the official Guatemalan army. Our source indicates that Jose Manuel
FORTUNI and Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ, the leading avowed Communist
figures in Guatemala, have apparently preferred to let the nominal govern-
ment and military leadership go to DIAZ Rozsotto and CRUZ Wer rather
than assuming it themselves. However, according to our information these
Communist coup plans, scheduled for fulfillment before the end of this
year, may still undergo drastic revision.

While DIAZ Rozsotto is a known figure on the Guatemalan Communist
scene, the rise of power of CRUZ Wer in the PGT has been better
concealed and is still largely shrouded in mystery. Sources familiar
with his career believe that the roots of his Communist inclinations
may have been found in a warped and unhappy childhood. However, he was
an intelligent student at school and his superiors in the Escuela
Politecnica readily recognized this. CRUZ Wer rose steadily through
the ranks of the Guatemalan Army, occupying at various times the posts
of Director of the Military Hospital, Chief of Section at the General
Staff of the Army and Chief of the Military Zone of Zacapa. In addition
to his military duties, CRUZ Wer profitted financially by selling
protection to gambling houses and by trafficking in marijuana.

It is reported that it was CRUZ Wer's desire for power that
eventually made him acceptable to the Communists. Shortly after his
enrollment in the PGT, he received his promotion to be Chief of the
Guardia Civil. His administration of that office has been marked by
rapid intensification of police brutality and by increasing application
of Soviet-pioneered torture methods.