

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
 RELEASE AS SANITIZED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

2003 ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:	TELEPHONE	NO.
<i>WH/PW</i>		
		DATE
		<i>22 March 1955</i>

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
[Redacted]	[Redacted]		<i>22 Mar 2</i>		<i>2 to 3 - I'm inclined to accept the views expressed herein. If you agree we will proceed in the Zepeda case as indicated. 3-2,1. [] [Signature] []</i>
			<i>26 MAR 26 1955</i>		
			<i>22 March</i>		
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

*4-5: prepare cable to
 Guatemala. File this
 paper + enclosures in
 Guat. asylum file.*

22 March 1955

[]
According to the only other available data on this matter, the crimes of Garcia Zepeda were ruled to be of a political nature.

Neither the Guatemalan nor the Chilean desks were able to provide details regarding Garcia Zepeda, the identities of his victims, his role in Guatemala prior to the revolution of 1954, his relative importance, etc.

I personally feel that this case has very little potential. As you know, the right of asylum is a sacred tradition in Latin America and it is highly unlikely that extradition would ever be granted as long as there is the slightest suspicion that the charges have political ramifications - and that suspicion is always present.

In my judgment we have reached the point where further PR action in regard to the extradition of Guatemalan exiles would be counter-productive. There is a possibility that we might create martyrs. The latter possibility is made more likely by the recent abortive uprising in Guatemala which was suppressed and followed by some arbitrary and highly debatable executions which have not contributed to the popularity of Castillo Armas in other area countries.

Considering the entire problem of Guatemalan exiles, I recommend that the following operational procedure be employed and that extradition per se be allowed to expire as an issue:

- 1) The activities of Guatemalan exiles everywhere should be closely watched by our stations to observe violations of asylum, unsavory associations, subversive activity such as indoctrination or guidance of local Communists, and conduct detrimental to host country, etc.
- 2) Each target of opportunity that appears as a result of the above action should be exploited locally for the purpose of discrediting the individual, demonstrate the undesirable character of the Guatemalan exiles, portray them as Communist agents responsible for creating unrest in the host country, and inspire local restrictions on their movement and activities or expulsion.
- 3) As appropriate, and under the coordination of the staff, news stories regarding the behavior of Guatemalan exiles in selected countries could be publicized in other area countries to sustain public concern of their presence and machinations, to keep them under pressure and scrutiny so that they will be unable to work effectively in behalf

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of the Communist movement, and to create resistance obstacles in the event of expulsion.

The above line of thinking has already been shown in several cases not being considered for exploitation - i.e., the publication in Mexico of anti-Garcia, anti-C. R. L. articles, pamphlets, etc.; the recent arrest in Bolivia of the former Guatemalan ambassador in the company of local Communists. Recommendations have been transmitted to the desks concerned.

If you and [] feel that Garcia represents a profitable exploitation, I recommend that he be treated as outlined above without reference to extrajudicial. The first step in the event of an affirmative decision would be transmission of the attached cable to Station Guatemala requesting detailed background information.

[]

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TO : []

FROM : []

1. Chilean supreme court rejected extradition of Pinochet
Zepeda charged with the heinous. Court ruled crimes were political
in nature. ~~Attempted~~ preparing counsel (source: America
Latina March 16).

2. Table brief summary of charges against Garcia including victims
identities, where and when crimes committed, party affiliation and
official position of Garcia if any, atrocity aspects, evidence and
witnesses.

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