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Chrono

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COMMUNISTS AND OTHER ARBENZ SYMPATHIZERS REPORTED

TO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN EMBASSIES IN GUATEMALA CITY

1. MEXICAN EMBASSY. Paul Kennedy dispatch from Guatemala City in NY Times of July 8:

"Referring to Communists and others who have sought asylum in Latin-American embassies here, Col. Monson said 'Each case is being studied to learn of direct or indirect responsibilities; we have not given safe conduct to anyone.' He added that..Arbenz who..has taken refuge in the Mexican Embassy had not asked for a safe-conduct pass.

"While rights of asylum will be respected, Col. Monson said, it is virtually certain that safe conduct will not be granted to persons guilty of common crimes. He listed about 1,000 persons as having taken asylum here. About 500 of these are in the Mexican Embassy, including Guillermo Toriello..he added.

"Col. Monson did most of the talking at a press conference this morning, at which all five members of the junta were present.."

2. "MEXICO TO INSIST ON GIVING ASYLUM", headline on Sydney Gruson dispatch from Mexico City in NY Times of July 7:

"Mexico is determined to abide by established principles of political asylum in the case of the hundreds of Guatemalans sheltered in her Guatemala Embassy...No official announcement has been made by the Mexican Govt., but its views..are well known and have been reflected in newspaper comment.

"The basic principle on which Mexico will stand is that the receiving country alone has the right to determine who shall be given asylum. This principle was upheld at the tenth Inter-American Conference in Caracas early this year. Nevertheless, Guatemala's new ruling authorities have made it clear that they consider many of the persons in the Mexican Embassy as felons who will have to stand trial for crimes ranging from the robbery of the country's banks to the murder of anti-Communists.."

3. MEXICAN EMBASSY. According to the same Gruson dispatch: "Besides... ARBENZ, the most prominent Guatemalans in the embassy are...DIAZ,..Guillermo TORIELLO..Augusto CHARNAUD MacDonal.. and FORTUNY.

"The wife of Senor FORTUNY was reported to have given birth to a boy in the Embassy..(fmu).."

"In the confusion of the Arbenz Govt.'s downfall, many Guatemalans fled across the border into Tapachula, Mexico and some flew out in private planes. One plane carried Maj. Jaime ROSENBERG, former head of the secret police, and Col. Rogelio CRUZ WER, former head of the National Police. Both men are on the new Guatemalan authorities' 'wanted' list. Mexico's anti-Communist popular front asked the Govt. today to expel them as criminals, but they already had been accorded political asylum.."

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A cable dated 1 July 1954 reported: "...Saw FORTUNY at Mexican Embassy. He refused to be debriefed.

A cable dated 30 June 1954 indicated that, at that date, the Mexican Embassy had given asylum to "more than 200 persons, including Arbenz, Guillermo Toriello, Guillermo PALMIERI (head of Guatemalan Tourist Bureau), Augusto Charnaud MacDonald, Julio HERRERA, and Carlos Enrique Diaz."

4. ARGENTINE EMBASSY. A cable dated 30 June reported that asylum had been granted to "Over 100 persons; no names given; not all will stay when present troubles are over."

5. CHILEAN EMBASSY. A cable dated 30 June reported that asylum had been given to "Over 50 persons; no names given."

A cable of 29 June stated that: "PELLEGER is reported to have been allowed to escape and to be in the Chilean Embassy." In the same cable "another informant" stated that "7 Commies were in the Chilean Embassy".

6. SALVADORAN EMBASSY. A cable dated 28 June reported that "Col. Carlos ALDANA Sandoval (Minister of Public Communications and Public Works) and Col. Denis KESTLER had taken refuge in the Salvadoran Embassy."

An earlier cable reported that "Col. Carlos ALDANA Sandoval, mother, wife and 5 children took refuge in the Salvadoran Embassy at 0030 of June 27."

7. ESCAPES FROM EMBASSIES. A cable dated 6 July reported: "Junta concerned with internal power problems, has not cracked down on CP as hard as may appear. CP and CP-controlled labor machine largely intact. Secret members still in key positions, blocking investigations. Commies in embassies getting out back door and operating illegally. Borders not sealed. After 9 years of Commie-dominated Govt., CP-penetrated Guardia Civil obviously not equipped for anti-subversive follow-up action."

8. GUTIERREZ, PELLEGER. According to a cable dated 28 June Col. Carlos Enrique DIAZ stated that FORTUNY, GUTIERREZ and PELLEGER had been arrested but he wished to let them go into exile. Neither CRUZ WER nor ROSENBERG had been arrested. (See paragraph 5).

According to a cable dated 29 June "an unidentified Lieutenant who checked GUTIERREZ into the Cuartel General, said that at about 2300 June 28 Col. Jose Luis Morales Melgar, now Chief of the Guardia Civil, let GUTIERREZ out the back door and his whereabouts are unknown." Same cable: "PELLEGER is reported to have been allowed to escape and to be in the Chilean Embassy."

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