

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE IN FULL

BERRIES

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Items of Possible News Value

1. Radio Liberacion is broadcasting an ultimatum to Diaz to eliminate communism and join the forces of Castillo Armas.
2. Col. Carlos Aldana Sandoval, who on 18 June had been offered a field command by Arbenz, took refuge 27 June in the Salvadoran Embassy.
3. On 26 June Arbenz tried to assemble 160 private trucks at Cipresales. His intended use of the vehicles is not known.
4. There are reports that Fortuny, Gutierrez and Pellecer who are among the more prominent Communist leaders have been arrested by the military. As of 26 June the Guatemalan army had only radio communication with their units in Puerto Barrios.
5. A report was received 26 June to the effect that President Arbenz had held no cabinet meetings since 17 June. Arbenz was remaining in the presidential residence and not going to the palace.
6. A reliable eye witness reported that on 26 June the church of La Mercedes had not been damaged. This report is in direct conflict with the AP report of 25 June which quoted Guatemalan diplomats at the United Nations and Mexico City as saying it had been destroyed by bombing. The evening of 26 June a report was received to the effect that La Aurora Airfield and the Guardia de Honor had been evacuated. The Matamoros base was in process of evacuation as a result of the bombing. Approximately 1,000 troops from the above-mentioned units were still reported at the capital as of that date. Total government forces in the field were estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 men.
7. 26 June in Guatemala City a civilian group headed by Oscar Ubico and Lic. Gonzales Sigui were trying to get 20,000 signatures on a petition asking the army to take over from President Arbenz.
8. It was reported that President Arbenz on 26 June sent out a circular ordering the execution of ten anti-Communists for every bomb dropped on any city.
9. A report was received at 2000 hours 26 June to the effect that 38 anti-Communist prisoners had been executed in Guatemala City.
10. A report received during the afternoon of 27 June gave the strength of the regular Army in Guatemala City as follows: 500 regular soldiers and 2,500 poorly-trained reservists.
11. Government troops defending Puerto Barrios were estimated at 500 men including artillery and AA units as of 28 June at 0900.

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*DD/P files*