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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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21 June 1954

2003

Memorandum of Ideas Developed in Meeting in Mr. [ ]  
Office Concerning Guatemalan Situation.

At the discussion in Mr. [ ] office this morning a number of conclusions were tentatively arrived at with regard to steps to be taken in consequence of the United Nations Security Council actions of Sunday. These were as follows:

a. It is understood that there is not yet a question of a United Nations Inspection Committee. The Inspection Committee concerned, at least at present, is the so-called five-man peace council of the OAS which at present comprises representatives of the United States, Brazil, Cuba, Argentina and Mexico. (The Mexican representative is considered unfriendly and is regarded as a possible Red. However, Mr. Holland believes that the committee can be substantially controlled by the majority of the membership which is friendly, i.e., three out of five.)

b. It is possible that the OAS Peace Commission may move as early as Thursday of this week. It is very important that prior to any move into the field by this inspection committee (OAS) that certain very clear terms of reference be developed and provided. These terms of reference should include as a minimum the points that the commission will move together as a body; that it will not allow individual running-about by individual members; that its first point of call will be Guatemala itself /the place where the damage is alleged to have occurred, analogy of the beginning of the investigation of any alleged crime/; and that one of the most important terms of reference will be to look into the causes of the present situation. /By this point it is meant that the door must be opened and kept open to investigations of the alleged bombing attacks against Guatemala and the other more spectacular charges of the Guatemalan Government such as the claim that there are no Guatemalans engaged in any resistance to or uprising against the regime. But also to be investigated under this heading is the conduct of the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan Communist Party and dependent organizations. The charges of atrocities by any or all of these against the anti-Communist citizens of Guatemala should be investigated./

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c. At the very earliest moment matters become sufficiently clear to enable this to be done, our Ambassadors in Managua, Tegucigalpa and Guatemala City should be informed of the terms of reference -- and even more important the chronological steps plus time-table if possible -- and they should be instructed to inform the heads of the governments to which they are respectively accredited. Nicaragua and Honduras are specifically charged with acts of aggression and there may well be a state of gravest concern there which could lead to irrational and unfortunate actions on their part which need not occur if they are informed.

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This may be old stuff, but it seems to me most important that some effort be made to obtain statements from the friendly diplomatic representatives and Foreign Offices with regard to the charges and allegations of bombing, bomb damage and deaths resulting from bombing in Guatemala City. This applies particularly to the British and French Ambassadors who were present with Ambassador Feurifoy at the time Toriello repeated his lie about the burning of the Mendoza house. It is also very important to get some cooperation and assistance from the French and British with respect to giving some of these facts to their own press.

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