

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

AIR

HEL-A- 1087

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~~PBSUCCESS/RYBAT~~

2 JUN 1954

Acting Chief of Station, Guatemala City

INFO: []

(for HEGARTY)

LINCOLN

PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

HUSON

Session of the Guatemalan Congress

1. According to The "New York Times" of 31 May, the Congress of Guatemala has been convened again, for action on the budget. Please consider all practicable possibilities to utilize the session of Congress for PBSUCCESS purposes.
2. Offhand, without knowing the full agenda of the session nor your present capabilities of making direct or indirect contacts with members of Congress, we should like to mention the following theoretical possibilities, merely as a check list:
 - a) A full-scale debate on Guatemalan foreign policy, centered around the ALLENBY incident and its ramifications, is most desirable -- even if it only demonstrates that the Congress, as a whole, is following the communist party line and that there is no genuine opposition;
 - b) In addition, discussion of other questions possibly embarrassing for the government is also desirable, whether this can be accomplished by questions to be asked orally or in writing by a member of Congress, by petitions from the outside or in any other practicable way. Topics for such discussions might notably include:
 - (i) the Luna murder case
 - (ii) the Radio Internacional incident (and the presumed failure of the authorities to take action against those guilty of it)
 - (iii) the expulsion of 2 consuls from Honduras and the reasons for it
 - (iv) the Chiquimula incident (weren't local police and army officers guilty of unnecessary bloodshed?)
 - (v) delay in wage payments to the Atlantic highway workers etc.

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3. Apart from anything you might be able to do to introduce desirable topics into the Congressional debates, you might conceivably profit from the sessions of Congress insofar as reports from these sessions are presumably free of censorship: this might offer at least one temporary expedient to evade government reprisals against EL REBELDE and other friendly publications -- by simply printing an appropriate selection of quotations from Congressional debates.

4. Do not consider the present dispatch an "instruction": we need not be told that you, staff members as well as agents, are already overworked and operating under increasingly difficult conditions. The above is merely sent to you in order to invite your attention to some possibilities which might otherwise be overlooked, owing to the pressure of work.

JAMES G. DONNELLY

July 1978
1 June 1978
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