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Acting Chief of Station, Guatemala City INFO: [] (for HEOARTY)
LINCOLN (for WILLBANK)
PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

KUGOMI

SHERWOOD -- 2 scripts:

- a) "Arbenz proposes meeting with President Eisenhower"
- b) Recent arrests and the alleged 'discovery of a plot'

1. Subject scripts are forwarded herewith for your information and guidance, but not to be shown to anybody outside your office.
2. Script "a" is a tentative comment to Arbenz' latest diplomatic initiative, pending further policy decision at HEADQUARTERS.
3. Script "b" is SHERWOOD's first statement concerning the latest wave of arrests, house searches and other police activities.

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JIMMIE C. DUNBAR

JCD/EFL/a
Attachments
2 June 1954
Distribution:

- 2 - GRIAT (w/att)
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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Arbenz proposes meeting with President Eisenhower

After several months of an aggressive and provocative foreign policy, especially characterized by repeated defiance of the United States, we are surprised to hear that the Arbenz-Fortuny regime has suddenly changed to a gesture of sweet reasonableness and has announced that Colonel Arbenz is willing to meet President Eisenhower and to discuss the difficulties between the Guatemalan Government and the United States directly, from man to man.

Has Arbenz finally seen the light? Does even he finally understand that our small country, thinly populated, despite all recent importation of arms still unable to fight a major war and economically dependent upon foreign trade - must negotiate whatever differences with other countries there may legitimately exist, instead of trying to brazen out and of getting into trouble with virtually all American nations?

We wish that this were the case. Unfortunately, we have every reason to see Arbenz' latest diplomatic maneuver in a far less favorable light. First of all, we have noticed that the immediate reaction of the Arbenz-Fortuny regime on virtually every incident in recent months was confusion and evasion. This was the case even after a comparatively minor incident like the peasants' riot in Chiquimula, but became particularly evident after the exposure of the secret shipment of Soviet arms.

Only a day or a week after the event or even later the government spokesmen, Bonifacio, Arevales, other Guatemalan ambassadors abroad and finally Arbenz himself, began to talk with even some resemblance

of sense. Does it take them so long to conceive a coherent thought? Was the idea of a talk between the heads of the two nations so far-fetched or so complicated that Arbenz needed counsels or so to formulate it? Undoubtedly not. These delays can have but one reason: Whenever something important happens - something that might adversely affect the communist plans for Guatemala -, Fortuny must report to Moscow: only after Moscow has given him its orders, are the puppets, Arbenz, Toriello & Co allowed to make important statements. You all noted Arbenz' long silence in the grave crisis caused by the arrival of the Soviet arms shipment.

Transmission of secret, coded messages from Guatemala City to the Guatemalan embassy in Mexico City, from there to the Soviet embassy in Mexico City and from there to the Soviet Government in Moscow and the same way back again takes considerable time. This time gap must be filled out by dilatory statements - which you all remember: Toriello said first, he did not know of any arms; then he said he did not know of any Soviet arms; later, he explained that Czech or Polish arms are in his opinion no "Soviet" arms (what a silly play with words when our country is in grave peril), and so forth.

Once we have recognized that this "generous" offer to meet President Eisenhower comes from Moscow, we should understand also that this is not a gift horse, but rather a Trojan horse: the Kremlin rulers want Arbenz to repeat the tactics which the communists applied with such fiendish stubbornness in Korea. There, too, they made a big noise with an offer to negotiate, thereby trying to give world public opinion the impression that they favored

peace and reconciliation. Actually, they were not at all willing to make any concession or even to slow down the pace of their aggression against democratic South Korea: it took no less than two years after Molotov's original offer of negotiations, before the continued stalemate on the Korean front and the desperately high losses of the Chinese communist forces compelled Moscow to consent finally to an armistice.

Arbenz' offer to talk amiably to the President of the United States is obviously meant to create a similar diversion. The untimely revelations about the secret arms shipment aboard the Aifhem as well as the exposure of Arbenz' provocation plan using cases of U. S. arms, so obtained on USA plantations, have caused Moscow considerable embarrassment and have somewhat upset the timetable of communist expansion and aggression in Central America. Moscow wants to gain time: the Soviets hope that the U. S. Government might not take any decisive action against the communist beachhead in Guatemala as long as negotiations between the two Presidents are pending, perhaps further prolonged by diplomatic exchanges, conferences of economic, legal and military experts, meetings of committees, sub-committees, special commissions and what not.

The Soviets want to avoid open internationalization in Guatemala, if only at this moment: but they do by no means want peace or friendly relations between the American nations. Therefore, Arbenz offers a meeting, but does not set any date at which this meeting could lead to quick, positive solutions. He is willing to see a drawdown, but he does not in the least intend to see a withdrawal of U. S. forces.

Presumably he does not even really want to see Eisenhower who might have to ask a lot of very embarrassing questions of Arbenz. He avoids studiously doing anything which could facilitate the arrangement of such a conference. He and his Soviet masters want only to gain time and to put more blame for their own sinister plans upon everybody else, first of all upon the United States.

We shall therefore watch this newest diplomatic deception maneuver of the Arbenz-Bortunoy regime with the utmost distrust and unflagging alertness.

(Recent arrests and the alleged 'discovery of a plot')

The propaganda mouthpieces of the Arbenz-Fortuny regime have been boasting the last few days of having discovered a vast conspiracy against the government and have filled the newspaper columns and the airwaves with spine-tingling details of the grave peril, from which only the alertness of the regime and of its faithful servants is said to have saved our country. Men have been arrested, others were forced to flee, houses were searched, documents seized, and so forth.

Did this news surprise you? Isn't it the perpetual habit of dictators to discover gruesome plots which gives them the pretext to arrest their enemies (true or pretended), to confiscate vast properties and to maintain their terroristic rule "in defense of the country"? Napoleon had this habit, Stalin developed it on an unprecedented scale, Hitler did the same and, naturally, Arbenz-Fortuny cannot maintain their treacherous, anti-constitutional rule without repeating this ignominious "plot and reprisal" routine.

A new chapter of this old story was to be expected and our Voice of Liberation has warned you more than once that the Arbenz-Fortuny conspirators would resort more and more to police reprisals as well as to completely illegal terror, disregarding the written laws which protect the right of the individual as well as the moral laws of truth and justice. We have also warned you that the regime was preparing a number of impudent provocations, attempting to prove the threat of an imminent foreign invasion by means of U.S. arms caches, buried by Army intelligence, by means of forged documents, perjured witnesses and all the other paraphernalia of the big lie. Haven't we described to you well in advance what the ruling communist clique has now begun to produce in broad daylight?

Of course, many activities in our country are what the communist police calls

"illegal" - in fact, many more than the police is ever to discover. Take, for instance, the radio station from which we are speaking to you right now! of course, it is hidden, it has not registered with the proper authorities, it is using all sorts of subterfuges to escape detention. What did Arbenz-Fortuny expect us to do after their toughs smashed Radio Internacional and their legal minds puzzled the remaining radio stations?

There are naturally also many other illegal activities on a vast scale, clandestine meetings throughout the country, distribution of illegal newspapers and leaflets, secret collection of all the evidence for the misdeeds of the regime and for the crimes of every individual leader and servant of this criminal regime -- evidence which will be laid before you and before free courts of the people on the day of liberation. There are other types of illegal activities which we prefer not to discuss at the moment: after all, the communists don't talk about the secret core of their underground organization either -- so why should we?

It is inevitable that the forces of the Arbenz-Fortuny regime should occasionally stumble across some of these many activities of the popular resistance, of our National Liberation Movement. It is just as inevitable that they arrest indiscriminately, the "guilty" together with the innocent and that they themselves forge the evidence which they hoped to find in certain people's houses, but failed to find -- either because it never existed or because they were outwitted by the opposition.

Everybody who becomes a victim of communist persecution in our country, everybody who is arrested by the police or forced to flee because of his opposition against the Arbenz-Fortuny dictatorship, deserves the active sympathy of our entire people -- regardless of whether he committed the "crimes" of which he is accused or not. The record of the regime is so full of outrageous lies, falsifications and distortions

of the truth that we shall not stoop to refute each of the claims of the communist-controlled government: don't believe any of these frantic outbursts of reckless, provocative propaganda! Don't waste your time speculating as to whether one or the other claim may perhaps contain a kernel of truth or not!

Let the prisoners and the exiles know that you are on their side! Use every opportunity to demand an early, public trial under the safeguards of our constitution for everybody who has been arrested! Let the best lawyers step forward for the defense of the victims of communism! Let everybody aid and comfort the families of the victims!

Our liberation movement will not be intimidated by the terroristic acts of the Arbenz-Fortuny regime. We expect all our friends and sympathizers to be more careful than ever. Do not facilitate the iniquitous work of the police and of the communist agents by thoughtless talk in front of strangers or unreliable persons; do not keep any possibly compromising materials in places where they can be too easily discovered; apply all the other precautions necessary when dealing with a ruthless dictatorship! As an especially urgent task, we ask you to expose all government informers, all police spies, all disguised communist agents, exposing them to public contempt and warning all people among they could do further damage.

We are sure that the occasional losses in our ranks, caused by police persecution and communist terrors, will be more than replaced by courageous compatriots who are convinced, as we are, that the days of the Arbenz-Fortuny regime are numbered and that our beloved homeland shall not have to suffer the shame of this Moscow-directed dictatorship much longer!
