

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1 June 1954

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Progress Report - PPSUCCESS for the Period 25-31 May 1954

I. Operational

The following events of operational significance occurred during the reporting periods:

- A. As a direct result of a meeting between CALLIGERIS's representative, [] and President Marcos PEREZ Jimenez of Venezuela, JIMENEZ has dispatched Pedro ESTRADA, Chief of the Venezuelan Seguridad Nacional (SN), to meet with CALLIGERIS and discuss terms of support (mutual support?).
- B. The Guatemalan Station reported that the homes of SEMANTIC and ESCOBILLA, principal agents, were searched by the Guatemalan Police on 29 May 1954. Although the police were unable to arrest any SENCARP members, they reportedly seized lists of names, codes, maps, and a Quezaltenango radio plan. Other principal agents, i.e. SECANT and ESSENCE, were reportedly in hiding. Their exact whereabouts are unknown. It was the initial impression of the Guatemalan Station that the long-awaited crackdown is now in progress.
- C. The EMBATIO problem in El Salvador is yet to be solved. One report from San Salvador during the period indicated that President OSORIO had decided to throw his support to EMBATIO rather than CALLIGERIS. This matter is under consideration at present by the Lincoln Station. It is hoped that [] will arrive in El Salvador the week of 2 June 1954. Prior to his departure, he will be briefed in Headquarters and Lincoln re the Salvadoran problem.
- D. The Guatemalan Station has urgently requested that ^{transfer} a junior KUSOWA officer, be raised [] to facilitate his performance of his KUSOWA function, i.e. the carrying of black propaganda out of the station. It is a well established principle of clandestine operations that KUSOWA staff officers under official cover should not rely on their cover to perform necessary duties — in this case the carrying of anti-Government propaganda from an official U.S. installation in an unfriendly host country such as Guatemala. However, the reason for the re-

23 JUN 1954

~~TOP SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

quest from the Guatemala Station is both understood and appreciated by Headquarters. The Station is under tremendous pressure vis-a-vis the ever increasing demands of PBSUCCESS. Their urgent request, however, is a case in point and clearly indicates the need for an immediate high-level decision on basic modus operandi. If we, in our effort to obtain the objective of PBSUCCESS, are to set aside basic and well established procedures of operations, that decision should be in writing and should be executed by the highest authority. Many of the problems which have been vexing us, i.e. security and exposure of the hand of the U.S. Government, would be resolved in this one decision.

- E. Ten black flights were completed without incident during the reporting period, lifting a total of approximately 30,870 pounds of cargo. ✓

II. Administrative Support

A. Finance

A staff paper is being prepared on the present status of FY 1954 funds allotted for PBSUCCESS. Since it has not been determined that 1954 funds will be available in FY 1955, a budget estimate for the period 1 July - 30 September 1954 has been submitted through the DD/P to the Comptroller.

B. Personnel

1. It is noted in the cable traffic that contracts with sterile pilots and cargo kickers will be signed in the field on or about 4 June. We would like again to point out that unless the officer signing the contract on behalf of the Government is an authorized contracting officer, the contracts could become null and void in the event of litigation at a later date. [] ✓
2. [] departed Headquarters for duty as an operations officer in Guatemala on 20 May 1954.

EYES ONLY

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Leaflet Drop over Guatemala City

On 26 May 1954 at 1920 hours local time, a leaflet drop over Guatemala City was successfully accomplished. The plane swooped low several times over the capital city and the pilot operating the aircraft displayed considerable courage operating under a ceiling estimated at 500 feet. On the morning of 27 May TACA Airlines was prohibited from landing in Guatemala City, and AVIATECA Airlines was grounded. A later report from PAA indicated that they were uncertain as to whether or not they would be permitted to land. All airlines reported that bad weather was not the reason for this temporary cancellation in air service in and out of Guatemala City. A meeting of all airline representatives and a spokesman for the Guatemalan Government was called for the morning of 27 May. However, commercial service has now been resumed in Guatemala. ✓

~~TOP SECRET~~