

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RYBAT
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

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2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: DC/P, C/CE, C/PP

8 March 1954

SUBJECT: Agrarian Reform

1. It is my firm opinion, based upon everything I have read to date upon agrarian reform, that it is imperative we examine this matter closely and be prepared to accept it as originally conceived as part of our political program. I believe it is essential that we do so and that the gains so made and the progress under this reform not be lost while changing governments. If we are able to adopt this quickly in our program and propagate rapidly, it is believed that we will obtain considerable support from the campesinos wherein lies the strength of the enemy. In this regard we would then be able to provide for support within the CNC, attempting to subsidize and defect this organization as much as possible.

2. As a corollary to the above effort I believe we should concentrate soonest on mounting an operation to defect Major MARTINEZ, assuring him that the agrarian reform would be fully accepted by the new government and that he would be the director to insure that it is properly carried out in the best interests of the people. This could be a very important defection target and, if successful, could largely contribute to our ultimate success.

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