

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Italy/Guatemala

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 21 SEP 61

SUBJECT Sale of Italian Arms to Guatemala

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. Early March 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

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1. [REDACTED] in Guatemala (sic),¹ arrived in Rome in early March 1951, and contacted the GENAR (Gestione Navi Ricuperi Marittimi e Affini) firm, located at 96 Via Vittorio Veneto, Rome, in order to negotiate the purchase of a consignment of arms for Guatemala. The GENAR firm is allegedly controlled by G. C. G. Peretti and Spera, well-known Italian arms dealers.

2. The following is a translation of a letter addressed to GENAR by the Guatemalan Military Attache in Rome, Colonel Oscar Morales Lopez, in connection with the above-mentioned transaction:

a. "We confirm herewith the negotiations undertaken with you by [REDACTED] and the order passed to you for arms and ammunition as indicated below, from Italian Military administration sources:

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- (1) 12 Breda-Safat 12.7 mm machine guns;
- (2) 12 Breda-Safat 7.7 mm machine guns;
- (3) 60,000 to 100,000 rounds of 12.7 mm ammunition;
- (4) 12,000 to 20,000 rounds of 7.7 mm ammunition;
- (5) 1 Mauser 20 mm cannon for aircraft; and
- (6) 1,000 rounds of Mauser 20 mm ammunition.

b. "We request that you attempt to obtain the necessary authorizations from the competent authorities, and hold yourselves responsible for thorough checking of this consignment, bearing in mind that if these samples prove of interest to our Ministry of National Defense, as we believe they will, a more important business relationship with your firm should result."

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3. On [REDACTED], [REDACTED] left Rome for Paris and was scheduled to arrive in New York on [REDACTED] where his address would be 98 Morning-side Avenue, New York 27, New York. Before leaving, [REDACTED] stated that he was interested in procuring Spitfire aircraft for Guatemala.²

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

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- 1. [REDACTED] Comment: According to the latest available information, [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] in Guatemala. Julian was previously reported as the "accredited Guatemalan Government representative for war material purchases." 25X1A
- 25X1A [REDACTED]
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment: For further information in connection with Guatemalan purchase of Spitfire aircraft from the [REDACTED], 25X1B
- 25X1A [REDACTED]

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