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Subject: (Colonel) Carlos CASTILLO Armas,
Guatemalan Exile.

Report No: [REDACTED]

Date of Information: Current

Place Acquired: [REDACTED]

Date Acquired: [REDACTED]

Evaluation: [REDACTED]

Date of Report: 2 August 1951

Source: [REDACTED]

1. Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas arrived in Colombia some weeks ago from Guatemala where he had taken asylum in the Colombian Embassy after having escaped from prison. The following information is based on an interview between Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Colonel CASTILLO stated that he had begun his intervention in Guatemalan politics because of indignation aroused by the assassination of Colonel ARANA. He attributed the assassination of ARANA to the connivance of former President AREVALO and actual (President) Jacobo ARBENZ. CASTILLO at that time was Chief of the Military District of Quetzaltenango. Three days after the assassination he and another Army commander attempted an uprising against AREVALO which failed because of the capitulation of the presidential guard. CASTILLO was removed from his post because he had criticized the government and was especially critical of the cooperation of the government with the Caribbean Legion. A few days after giving up his command, he was visited by various military friends, some in active service and others in retirement. It turned out that he was being surveilled by the secret police and he was taken prisoner and falsely condemned. After four months in jail, he was liberated at Christmas time, after which he was once again arrested and put in jail, but for a very short time. On getting out of prison, he went to El Salvador to join a group who were plotting the overthrow of the AREVALO regime.

2. On a given day not specified in [REDACTED] report, CASTILLO at the head of a group of revolutionaries captured the guard of a cuartel, but the treason of a lieutenant caused the plans for capturing the cuartel to fail. Several officers and civilians were killed. Some escaped but CASTILLO was among those taken prisoner. In prison his companions were assassinated. CASTILLO was wounded and feigned death and he was taken out of jail along with the bodies of his companions. Thereupon, it was found he was still alive and he was taken to a hospital. During his recovery, he was interrogated repeatedly and finally ended up in a penitentiary where he spent several months, certain that sooner or later death sentence would be passed on him. He and a few companions finally managed to escape. CASTILLO sought asylum at the Colombian Legation.

3. CASTILLO asserted that the Guatemalan people were ready to revolt against the government. ARBENZ, while a candidate for the presidency, was able to inspire the confidence of the Army and it was believed that he would change the political line followed by AREVALO, but since becoming president, ARBENZ has turned out to

Classification [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

be more of a Communist than his predecessor and some of the principal posts of the administration are occupied by Communist leaders. CASTILLO believes that ARBENZ is dominated by the Communists and that he is unable to take any other course. AREVALO and ARBENZ fear one another because they are both involved in the assassination of ARANA. When AREVALO returns from Argentina, ARBENZ will create the post of Inspector of Diplomatic Missions for him. Thus AREVALO will be able to travel all over the hemisphere with complete diplomatic immunity.

4. CASTILLO claimed that the Army is disillusioned and that they feel they have been deceived and sooner or later they will react. CASTILLO predicted that before the end of the year, the armed forces and the anti-Communist civilian forces will have overthrown the government. He stated that the anti-Communist forces need help from abroad in war material and organization. CASTILLO urged [REDACTED] and of other anti-Communist governments to combat Communism and to begin by aiding the anti-Communist forces in Guatemala. He said the United States government would not materially aid such a movement, but it was certain that the United States would do nothing to interfere with the movement.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] report does not touch on the [REDACTED] reaction to Colonel CASTILLO's conversation.