

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

FROM: RELEASE AS SANITIZED

NO. HGG-A-703

DATE 10 February 1954

2003

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
1. []			[]	Rybot/PB success
2. Esterline		10 Feb 54	[]	✓
3. []		FEB 12 1954	[]	3: not particularly para 5
[]		17 FEB 1954	[]	3: Has anyone seen "Daily running memorandum" mentioned in para 2? Re para 5: If I recall correctly, Rojas, Ed. of "Prensa Libre", is ^{sister} brother in opposition with Rufus admin. I haven't been given it yet - may be a little upset. Also interesting note that "P.L." is one main overt "anti-Commie" organs hence by representing anti-C PW is protecting self. []
[]		FEB 17 1954	[]	
6. []			[]	
7. []			[]	
8. []			[]	
9. []			[]	
10. []			[]	
11. []			[]	
12. []			[]	
13. []			[]	
14. []			[]	
15. []			[]	

AIR

RYBAT

Washington
HGG-A-703

Chief, Lincoln

FEB 5 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Washington

FBSUCCESS

Psychological Barometer Report
(Period Ending 30 January 1954)

Reference - HGG-A-682

1. Notwithstanding the release of the sensational "white paper" by the Guatemalan Government during this period, a paper in which it was alleged that a vast international conspiracy was being planned to overthrow the incumbent regime, it is believed that no appreciable change has taken place in the basic attitudes previously reported.
2. On the basis of first reports it appears that the general reaction to the "white paper" was unfavorable for the government. The charges of international conspiracy, especially as they relate to the United States, are viewed as trumped-up fantasies based on faked documents. Anti-government elements who accept the charges as true are apparently inspired by the reports that effective opposition forces in the exterior are in being and planning the early overthrow of the present regime. Pro-government elements are less accessible, and their reactions have not been as closely reported. However, it is believed that the charges did little more than unify already confirmed partisans of the government. Almost certainly the charges did not inspire any significant number of conversions to a pro-government position. Detailed reports regarding this subject are forwarded in the daily running memorandum.
3. There is still talk of a communist-inspired "bogotazo" prior to the Caracas meeting in order to precipitate premature U. S. intervention that can be denounced by the Guatemalan Government at Caracas. The possibility of a coup staged by the government itself in order to undermine domestic and international opposition is also rumored, but it is believed that a faked coup will not be followed by a genuine elimination of communism. Indeed such a coup would probably be undertaken with the support and consent of the communists themselves. In connection with this topic, it is rumored that the Army is no longer capable of controlling the internal situation. There is some feeling that the Guardia Civil and armed communist labor groups are more than a match for the Army and could probably defeat the latter if it attempted to overthrow the government.
4. The Second National Congress of the CGTG was held on 29-30-31 January 1954 without incident. Pro-communist, anti-U. S. propaganda contained the same old themes: unity and welfare of the working class; agrarian reform; against foreign intervention; world peace; ad nauseam. As might have been expected, the CGTG

~~SECRET~~

HGG-A-703
Page 2

passed a resolution calling for the confiscation of personal property and the death penalty for persons engaged in subversive plots against the government. For the purposes of this report the CGTG congress did not result in any changed attitudes or beliefs. The true character of the congress and the sentiments of the attending delegates were clearly revealed by the loud applause and cheers that followed the reading of a fraternal message from a Russian labor leader.

5. As a follow-up to the remarks contained in para. 2(c) of the reference, it is believed significant to mention an editorial from PRENSA LIBRE during this period in which the writer observed the undeniable circulation of money, given in good faith, to combat communism. The writer added, however, that publications, radio programs and other media sustained by such funds had no appreciable content. He concluded by observing that he did not know how certain propaganda items were circulated and that he didn't care either.

It is believed that the foregoing is further evidence of the indifference with which negative anti-communist propaganda is received.

George L. Tranger

2 February 1954

Distribution:

2 - Lincoln
3 - Washington
1 - Files

~~SECRET~~