

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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LATIN AMERICA
Nov. 19, 1953

GUATEMALA
GUATEMALA'S STAND IN OAS CLARIFIED
TGWA Guatemala City (Official), Guatemalan Home Service, Nov. 19, 1953, 0215 GMT--E

We have selected the subject and facts and presented them in a clear and concise manner. (The National Hour) This is a program of the OAS. (Excerpts) Every week this program presents the most noteworthy preoccupations, efforts, and progress of the revolution. In order to give an objective idea about some topics that have caused speculation of late, we will devote today's program to clarifying Guatemala's stand in the council of the OAS.

On November 10 the council of the OAS, the mission of which is to draw up the agenda for inter-American conferences, met in Washington to approve the agenda for the conference to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, Mar. 31, 1954. Our Ambassador in Washington, Lic. Guillermo Toriello, voted against those proposals which, under the most fragile pretexts, tend to infringe upon the sovereignty and self-determination of our peoples. He voted against a U.S. proposal.

A campaign of speculation and distortion of facts is being waged against a sister nation, Guatemala, for the crime of maintaining a real, sincere democracy. In April 1953, Guatemala made concrete charges in the Security Council showing the intention to openly interfere in Guatemala's domestic life. Since the Guatemalan revolution in 1944, U.S. newspaper chains, big newspapers in other countries, and the biggest news agencies in the United States have carried out a systematic campaign of false and slanted reports, trying to make Guatemala appear as an advance post for Soviet Communism in America.

One English newsman even went so far as to report that there was a secret base for Soviet submarines in Guatemala. Spruille Braden clearly advocated foreign intervention in Guatemala's domestic affairs. And a fresh wave of attacks was launched when the Guatemalan Government, in full use of its sovereignty in applying its laws, expropriated uncultivated land from the United Fruit Company.

This brought the strange justification of interference in Guatemala, all because Guatemala's freedom, her democracy, her liberal laws, in short, the full right of governing herself and progress--are Communist. The true goal of the anti-Communist campaign is to stifle Guatemala's revolutionary movement.

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El señor EMBAJADOR DE GUATEMALA: Señor Presidente, deseo dejar en el acta la siguiente constancia: El Representante de Guatemala vota en contra de la ponencia de Estados Unidos por considerar que sigue una tendencia que, a corto o largo plazo, afectaría la soberanía e independencia efectivas de los países signatarios de la Carta de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, a la democracia y a los gobiernos democráticos de América, como consta por experiencia al pueblo y gobierno de Guatemala, a quienes sin serlo, se sindicaba de ser comunistas y de amenazar la seguridad continental. Mi Gobierno se reserva el derecho de defender oportunamente sus puntos de vista.

Formal statement from
the minutes of the COAS
17 Nov. 53 - not yet
approved by the participants
of the meeting. Recd from
Seddy 9 Dec 53/

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