

AIR

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL**

HCG-A-447

Chief, WHD

2003

OCT 28 1953

Chief of Station, Guatemala

KUGOWN Priority Assignments

Rumors

1. The following rumors collected through 23 October 1953 are submitted in compliance with the subject priority assignment. Station comments regarding plausibility, source of each rumor, and suggested restrictions on re-use are included after each rumor in the order listed:

The Congressional speech of Francisco FERNANDEZ Foncea in which he lauded the Communist Party and predicted the eventual disappearance of his own party (Partido Acción Revolucionaria -PAR) was a clever maneuver to provoke anti-Communist reaction by other PAR members and give the Communists an opportunity to identify their enemies within PAR. Those PAR members who repudiated FERNANDEZ Foncea are marked for purge.

(Doubtful, source with contacts among independent newspapermen, no restrictions).

PAR leaders had been looking for an opportunity to purge FERNANDEZ Foncea and his speech in Congress provided a good pretext for ousting him as Secretary General of PAR.

(Possibly true, journalist with contacts in pro-government political parties, no restrictions).

A source with contacts among army officers claims that a rumor is circulating in that group to the effect that the U.S. is supporting General Ydigoras Fuentes to head a new government. Several army officers reportedly told source that army sentiment is against Ydigoras Fuentes but they (the several army officers) would favor Juan Cordova Cerna.

(Rumor itself probably true, source as stated, not for re-use).

2. No other rumors were overheard or collected regarding government officials, the army, government-army relations, revolutionary activities, relationships among Communists or bad morale factors among the ruling clique.

27 October 1953

GLT/omh
3-Wash
1-Files

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