

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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SEP 11, 1953

Interview with **2003** - 11 September 1953

The following are answers, in part, to the questions presented by

Re Question #1:

There are men who can prepare and distribute propaganda in the Capital and in those towns in which the Army of the government is located.

Re Question #2:

There are enough men throughout the Republic to insure that when we need to make propaganda we may do so. But, these men need help - ideas, materials, etc.

Re Question #3:

There are two situation to consider: the internal and external. How to get ideas, materials, into the country, etc. must be considered. The most important items are to know how to distribute this propaganda and to know whose reputation should be smeared. A list of personalities in the Army of the government can be secured.

Re Question #4:

Propaganda can be distributed easily at first, without too much danger but as the campaign progresses, becomes more oriented, there will be more danger involved. About large posters, we must first study the recourses and see if we need them.

SEEKFORD stated that RHFUS prefers small propaganda.

If possible, it is a good idea to distribute propaganda in other countries.

Re Question #5:

We might possibly be able to secure the referenced documents - this however cannot be stated positively, but the idea is a good one.

Re Questions #6,8,9:

Señor RAMON presented his ideas on the campaign:

I. OBJECTIVES:

There are three principle ideas:

- a. Develop awareness in the people
- b. Develop awareness in the Army
- c. Develop awareness in the Exterior - Central America.

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A. Develop awareness in the People: The following themes can be used:

1. Communism vs Religion

The populace is religious - Catholic  
More than 50% are natives who are fanatic in their beliefs. For this group there should be pictures, illustrations, stamps, cards, etc. all in bright colors.

(Different propaganda should be prepared for each class.)

2. Communism vs Unity of Family - relation of children and parents - morals, etc.

3. Communism vs Nationalism - Incompatibility, loss of liberty, etc.

4. Communism Promotes Hatred - struggle between classes.

5. Communism Denies the Right of Personal Property.

6. Communism Enslaves the Worker - Soviet Sindicalism

7. Communism is a Struggle for Political Power.

Arevalo and Arbenz want to satisfy their own desires. They have made pacts with other countries without thinking of the Guatemalan people. These revolutionary governments have not done anything to improve the conditions of the people - such as sanitation, etc.

These questions may be asked:

What has been done as far as hospitals, social institutions etc. are concerned? (Pictures can be taken to show the existing conditions.)

What has been done to improve the conditions in insane asylums, etc.?

What programs - what plans have been formed? (In nine years nothing has been done.)

What are the realizations of the "Plan Quinquenales"?

Public administration: The hospital for the needy has not been completed for lack of funds. Yet, there is money for the October Fair.

Roads: there is a tax of 20cts per gallon of gasoline and yet there have only been a few miles of highway completed.

Social: The Labor Code is a political instrument to serve the State. The labor unions are directed by Communists to further their

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own interests. They create a distrust of capital. Political strikes are declared. They destroy private industry.

The Social Security Administration. Its director is an international Communist who works hand in hand with Toledano. Its Secretary is also a Communist.

The Agrarian Reform is a fraud. What has it accomplished?

Unemployment: 6-10 thousand are without work.  
"Salarios de Hambre" is the Communist slogan - yet the State pays the worker on the "piece work" plan - brutally unfair.

Nothing has been done for the economy of the country. No guarantees for the worker in public service is found in the Constitution.

Alcoholism has increased. The consumption of liquor has increased tremendously. This is a communist tactic to degrade the populace - make them servants of their wishes.

The government gets richer as the people get poorer!  
The Communists plan a civil war in Guatemala.

B. The Army - Corruption

It had unity, harmony, concepts of honor. Now, corruption, distrust, and espionage reign.

They have corrupted the men by giving them "whiskey". Discrimination is evident. Homes - special privileges - have been extended to certain oficiales.

The Communists do not trust the Army however, evidenced by the fact that there are 1,400 armed Commie militia in the provinces. The government has a "Popular Militia" to spy on the public. In syndicates, the leaders have arsenals.

The Army is forced to take action in civil uprisings which is a transgression of the Constitution.

It will be necessary to create an awareness of what is going on among the Army personnel.

C. Develop International Consciousness:

The Communist targets are Guatemala, Costa Rica and Bolivia. The Legion of the Caribbean is training in Costa Rica. The northern coast of Honduras is infested with Communists.

The Guatemalan government has committed various acts to prove its tendencies:

Its removal from the ODECA and its attitude toward the OEA.

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## II. MEANS to develop these objectives:

The following steps should be taken in all propaganda - radio programs, etc.:

1. Expose Communism in general
2. Attack Communist organizations
3. Expose the Communist government of Guatemala.

### 1. Means of diffusion of propaganda:

- a. Press - newspaper  
El Imparcial - La Nacion, etc. will receive this material.
- b. Cards, posters, handbills, pamphlets, - in color
- c. Book marks with slogan and symbol.
- d. Window - or car - stickers, etc. with symbol and slogan
- e. Lapel buttons with slogan and symbol.
- f. Necklaces for women with slogan and symbol.
- g. Match boxes with slogan and symbol.
- h. Stamps
- i. Stamps for packages to be distributed in stores.
- j. Pencils with slogan, etc.

### k. Radio

Programs at 7:30 in the morning - (15 minute program)  
12:45 - news - and at 8 in the evening

Use the independent stations in Guatemala.  
Have 15 minute programs at first.  
Use clandestine radios later.

- l. Use their very arms in propaganda. Develop small themes:
  - Totalitarianism vs Democracy
  - Sindicalism in Russia
  - Liberty in Russia
  - Soviet expansion in Latin America
  - Soviet Intervention in the Independence of Guatemala
- m. Commercial announcements- Slogan could be inserted before and after a commercial advertisement, such as "Dios, Patria, y Libertad".  
This same slogan repeated constantly,

The question was then asked as to what existing organizations could be relied upon for support. [ ] stated that such organizations as: el Partido Union Anti-Communist PUA and the Comité Estudiantil Universitario Anti-Communist CEUA (with over 200 cells) could be used.

[ ] proposed having one central organization with a center in the Capital directing all propaganda. From this focal point propaganda would be distributed to centers in all the provinces and from there to the center in each municipality. A double check system would be operating in this plan.

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Re Question #7

[ ] proposed this propaganda campaign:

- 1. Distribute cards with pictured hand pointing finger "Yo Acuso"
- 2. Next, the cards with Arbenz and Arevalo pictured are to be distributed.
- 3. The book YO ACUSO should then appear.

The cards with the flag and symbol: the flag and symbol should be done in blue and white but the background of each can be done in a different color - except red, of course.  
 The cards should not have a wax paper covering between sheets.

[ ] requested that 300,000 copies of Cards Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 be reproduced. & 1,000,000 copies of No. 5 (the stamps)

