

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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SECURITY INFORMATION

2003

VIA: AIR
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DISPATCH NO. HGG-228

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CLASSIFICATION

DATE: JUN 21 1953

TO : Chief, WF

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala

SUBJECT: GENERAL -
SPECIFIC - PBFORTUNE

Reference: HGG-149

- On 6 June 1953, Nuestro Diario, semi-official government organ, published an official bulletin from the Guardia Judicial which reported that (Sra.) Ana Maria Quintanilla E. v. de FIGUEROA and her father, Mariano QUINTANILLA Guerrero, had appeared at the secretary's office of the Guardia Judicial in order to testify that her husband Otilio FIGUEROA, one of four leaders killed on 1 April at Salama ostensibly as they attempted to break out of prison, was "neither a bandit or a thief" as had been claimed by some local newspapers.
- Sra. de FIGUEROA stated that she had been married to FIGUEROA for nine years, that her husband was a confirmed anti-Communist, and that in regard to Salama, she was ready to testify before any judge that her husband was a "revolutionary" and not a thief. She added that since July 1952 her husband had continually received visitors in their home, and that it was there that she had the opportunity of personally meeting (Lic.) Juan CORDOVA Cerna, (Lic.) Ramiro FLORES, Carlos E. SIMONS, Jorge HAUSSLER, Fabian URIZAR, and Eduardo MORALES y Morales. In addition to her husband, she mentioned Roberto BARRIOS Peña, Carlos Augusto LUNA Lara, Marco Antonio BARRIOS, (Col) Guillermo FLORES Avendaño, (Major) Carlos BARRIOS Peña, Domingo GOYCOLEA, Antonio BETETA AND Ezequiel ESCALANTE as being anti-Communists.
- Sra. v. de FIGUEROA stated that from a conversation between her husband and Carlos E. SIMONS it was learned that Lic. CORDOVA Cerna would become president of the Republic following the success of the movement which was being made ready in different parts of the country, and that on various occasions the visitors mentioned above brought arms to her home to be kept until they could be further distributed.
- She stated that in order to prove that her husband had participated in the uprising because of his anti-Communist political

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beliefs he left a signed letter which she then presented to the officials of the Guardia Judicial. The letter asked aid for the wife and children of FIGUEROA should he be killed in the anti-Communist cause for which he had labored for 9 years, not having another way of unseating the Communist government of Col. Jacobo ARANZ. The letter is signed Estilo FIGUEROA A., Captain of the Constitutional Catholic Anti-Communist Army.

5. In publishing the Guardia Judicial bulletin Nuestro Diario took the attitude that the visit of Sra. v. de FIGUEROA to the Guardia Judicial and the surrender of the letter were the latest "irrefutable proof" that the armed rebellion against the government which took place at Salama on 29 March 1953 was a planned and criminal revolt which intended to subvert the present "democratic regime." ✓

However, the independent press viewed the matter differently and generally took the stand that the visit and testimony were not spontaneous but police inspired. In addition, El Impacto, in its editorial column of 10 June 1953, stated that not only is the sincerity of the declaration suspect, but that suspicion that FIGUEROA was an "agente provocador" has increased.

[Vincent B. Jordan]

Enclosure:

Nuestro Diario clipping
dated 9 June 1953

22 June 1953

CMH

Distribution:
2-Wash w/att
1-Files w/att

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