

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

2003

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered and corresponded with file 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.

FROM:

[]

NO. EYES ONLY

DATE APR 8 1953

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. Col. King		APR 8	1953	[]	for your files Guatemala
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EYES ONLY

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~
~~EYES ONLY~~

8 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Future FP Activities in Guatemala

1. In view of the various reports that some kind of a revolution may take place in Guatemala in the near future, it is important that a FP plan of action be considered for the period following such an event, and I propose to set forth in this paper some suggestions therefor.

2. I assume that any government formed in Guatemala as a result of a violent overturn of the present government will be an anti-Communist government. A second assumption for the purposes of this paper is that among persons high in the government will be some with whom representatives of this Agency have already established relations that would make these officials receptive to advice from channels leading back to this Agency.

3. A situation based on the above assumptions would offer an opportunity for the United States Government to influence the Guatemalan Government in developing its policies, both external and internal, to an extent that is seldom possible in the relations between the United States and Latin American countries. Influence could be brought to bear at a top level through unofficial channels so that it could in case of necessity be disclaimed by official representatives of the United States Government.

4. The ideal vehicle for giving effect to the plan would be an agent such as is described in the report recently submitted by Colonel Lansdale. The Agency should endeavor to find an American who would go to live in Guatemala and be introduced to the new government heads by agents with whom they have had contact in the past. The new FP agent should be a man with a feeling and understanding of Guatemala and its people, who, however, is not identified with any of the larger and well-known American interests in that country. His cover might be some organization that would be interested in promoting tourism in the country. A good one would be the organization that finances the building of new hotels in Latin America. Guatemala has need of them, and a

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change of regime would furnish a reason for trying to revive the tourist trade.

5. The right person for the job would be one with considerable political sagacity, and he should be given a comparatively free hand. He would receive directives through secure channels from Headquarters, but there would be occasions when he would have to use his own judgment. If he should succeed in establishing the right kind of relations, he would often be obliged to provide advice on internal matters and he would probably find it necessary to give advice for which the United States Government could never be responsible. There would be certain risks incurred in carrying out the plan, but the advantages which might be gained are well worth the risks.

6. Although the ideal person would be one such as is described above, it may take time to find him, and need for action may arise before he is found. In such a situation lesser persons must be used, and it is possible that for a time presently existing agents would form a channel of communication to the new Guatemalan authorities. In this event there would have to be persons following the Guatemalan scene who are well-equipped to give directives and with authority to do so. Preferably, there should be one person authorized to make decisions without having to consult too many higher authorities before he acts.

7. The plan would constitute a new and bold departure in American foreign policy. Whatever machinery is set up, the plan would have to be approved by the highest levels of our Government, and no time should be lost in seeking a directive as advantage should be taken of the opportunity as soon as it arises.

Signed

[]
WB/PP

[] /lrv

8 April 1953

Distribution:

Orig & 1: DD/P

cc: CPP

[] Col. King ✓
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