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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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

DATE

11 March 1953

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. []		MAR 12 1953		[]	<i>to be - For your attention, as was requested; because of the sensitivity circulation should be kept to a minimum. []</i>
2. Col. King		13 Mar '53			
3. []					
4. []					
5. []					
6. []					
7. []					
8. []					
9. []					
10. []					
11. []					
12. []					
13. []					
14. []					
15. []					

**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

2003

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SECURITY INFORMATION

11 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

ATTN : []
FROM : []
SUBJECT: Visit of [] with [] 12 February 1953

1. During a recent trip from Panama, [] visited El Salvador for an overnight stay of about 24 hours. Inasmuch as [] and his family have been long standing personal friends of [] was his guest while in San Salvador.

2. []

3. It was at this time that [] stated that he was not receiving support from the United States in his fight against Communism in Central America. Before continuing he made great effort to point out that this should not be misinterpreted that official U.S. and El Salvador relations were not good because that would be a grave mistake. He carried the point further by stating []

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However, he said that he was more concerned with getting covert financial aid and material support to help fight Communism in Central America, and that this could not be accomplished through Embassy channels. [] stated that "Whatever future anti-Communist action decided upon must be carried out covertly and illegally because that is the only approach that Latin American Communists respect." In this connection it was stated that the most important current target for the anti-Communist faction in Central America is the financing and covertly supporting of a revolution in Guatemala. He said that he was certain this action would put an end to 75% of all Communist activities and infiltration in Central America, and end U.S. worries in this area. [] supported the above contention by further stating that Guatemala "(a) is known to be continually sending agents, arms and money into Honduras; (b) financially supporting the anti-American presidential candidate of Costa Rica; (c) attempting to penetrate Salvador by flooding the country with agents in the guise of refugees, etc.; (d) is the propaganda center and safe haven country for all priority Communists in Central and South America." [] elaborated ~~on~~ ~~paragraph 3~~ by stating that Guatemala is reportedly supporting Presidential candidate, Mr. Jose FIGUERES, to the extent of 300,000 pesos a month (\$50,000). According to [] sources in Costa Rica, Mr. FIGUERES has a very good chance of winning the election in July 1953. If this happens, it is believed that because of his strong leftist tendencies and anti-American leanings, he would most likely turn to his financial sponsors and become easy prey for his Guatemalan Communist benefactors. [] further believes that Honduras, although very much anti-Communist, will probably have little choice and may likewise go the same way within a short time should FIGUERES become president. It was further stated that it is difficult to know what would eventually happen in San Salvador and the rest of Central America if the trend should spread. He was very worried and extremely emphatic in his contention that the only way to wipe out the danger of growing Communism in Central America is to help the anti-Communist movement, with all the money and arms needed, to overthrow the present Guatemalan regime before it is too late. With reference to Guatemalan Communist agents coming into El Salvador, it was further mentioned that "at one time there were as many as 200 turned back in one month." Some of these were reported to have re-entered the country with diplomatic passports only to be returned to Guatemala in a persona non grata status after a period of time.

4. [] volunteered that he would be willing to personally make the necessary covert contacts with the Guatemalan anti-Communist underground cadre both in Salvador and Guatemala in setting up an illegal support structure, for the above action, if he could be assured of receiving substantial aid from the United States. The above statement was made in spite of the fact that his life was severely threatened in early January 1953 by six Communist assassins

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imported from Guatemala for this purpose. These assassins are now detained in jail and, [] will eventually disappear.

5. With reference to the coming conference of the Organization of Central American States to be held in Guatemala, 2 May 1953, the theme will again be anti-Communist unity. According to [] although Guatemala is a member and in this case the host country, every move is so carefully watched and scrutinized by the rest of the countries represented that there is very little chance of any harm being caused by Guatemala. He mentioned that the only reason Guatemala is a part of the conference is the desire for complete unity as part of the overall Central American States. With reference to Panama's recent request to join the Union it was stated that action for admittance will probably be a part of the agenda at the meeting.

6. It was also reported that there is to be a Grand Columbian Conference to be held in Panama, 22 June 1953 for the purpose of encouraging some of the South American countries to join with the Organization of Central American States in its anti-Communist activity. These will probably include Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. There seems to be some question as to whether or not Venezuela and Honduras will attend. In addition to the theme of anti-Communist unity the conference will also be dedicated to furthering cooperation with the U.S. and possibly pressuring U.S. to giving further material aid to Latin and South America. According to [] it is believed that much background intrigue is taking place in the preparation for the Columbian Conference; i.e., Panama is arranging for one of the other member nations to pass a resolution that the U.S. should accept Panama's demands for new and revised pacts affecting the two countries. [] felt that the "general undertone" in that the other countries of the Grand Columbian Conference will probably follow Panama's example with their respective requests to U.S. shortly afterwards.

7. During the conversation [] further indicated the existence of a special liaison arrangement between El Salvador's Military Intelligence and the P.S.P. (Panama Secret Police) in the exchange of mutual information concerning International Communists active in their respective countries. It is hoped that this liaison will be extended to effect the other members of the Organization of Central States except Guatemala; this has not been an overt official liaison but will probably be so in the future.

8. Before ending the conversation [] reiterated his willingness to cooperate and asked [] to please, if possible, pass the above information on to the proper authorities in Washington. [] made no commitments in any way but did say that he would try to pass on the contents of their conversation to some interested party.

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NOTE: With reference to the above visit with [] it is pointed out that the stop-over in El Salvador was **purely for** social reasons and was not encouraged or suggested by any member of the Panama Mission, Ft. Amador C. Z.

[]

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