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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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GUATEMALA (CONFIDENTIAL)

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The first distribution of land to Army officers under the Agrarian Reform Law occurred during the week of 11 May, according to a United States official in Guatemala. Six officers, including two from the Presidential Staff, received 34 acres each from one of the government-owned farms.

Comment: This land distribution is in line with the Government's policy of attempting to insure Army support for agrarian reform and other administration policies. Since the Agrarian Reform Law went into effect in June 1952*, special efforts have been made to include the Army in the program. The military have been cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture in teaching soldiers new farming methods. Grants of land have been made to a few enlisted men, but this is the first known instance of officers benefitting under the Law. It indicates continued Government efforts to guarantee Army support for agrarian reform and other administration policies. Army loyalty to the Arbenz Government is expected to continue.

* As reported in DIB, 24 Jun 52.

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