

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Air Pouch

2003

HUL-A- 663

~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

5 May 1954

Chief of Station, []

LINCOLN

Operational
Cover and Deception

1. The importance of cloaking the U. S. hand in PBSUCCESS needs no particular emphasis for it is self evident. It is also well known that a certain amount of "smoke" can be laid over the PBSUCCESS scene through the past and present involvement of Nicaragua, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, etc. However, these nations are all relatively friendly to the U. S., as Latin American nations go. It would appear highly desirable to allege the involvement in anti-Guatemalan activities of a nation basically unfriendly to the U. S., such as Argentina. This dispatch is therefore concerned with the initial ways and means of casting some of the blame for anti-Guatemalan activities on Peron.

2. Attached are two press releases which [] is requested to plant in papers under its control or at its disposal. The first press release is a general one, apropos of Peron's planned visit to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in June. The second release is more specific and will take detailed coordination. To the best of LINCOLN's knowledge, as plans stand now, SUMMIT emissary, Luis Coronado Lira, who is a confidant of CALLIGRES, is scheduled to be in Buenos Aires on 8 May in order to recruit for and publicize SUMMIT. LINCOLN will ascertain the firm ETA of Coronado Lira in Buenos Aires in order to assist [] in the timing of the release.

3. It is requested that [] pouch clippings of the articles, once they are planted, to info stations of this dispatch. Info stations are meanwhile requested to take what action they consider possible in the planting of either rumors or newspaper stories. If info stations have the capacity to plant newspaper stories independently of or prior to [] publication of the attached releases, they are requested to rewrite the attached releases sufficiently in order to prevent embarrassing duplication.

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4. Please keep LINCOLN advised of the results of your progress. It is contemplated that these stories will set off a mild wave of charges, counter-charges, and denials. The more closely LINCOLN can be advised of these matters, the more effectively will it be able to assist addressee stations in pursuing this campaign of involving Peron in anti-Guatemalan activities.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/JTN:c
5 May 1954

Distribution:

1 L]
2-Washington ✓
2-Guatemala City
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~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

VA PERON A DIRIGIR EL MOVIMIENTO ANTI-GUATEMALTECO?

Círculos bien informados y cada vez más interesados están tomando nota de la planeada visita de Juan Domingo PERON a la América Central durante el mes de junio. En la superficie, la visita de PERON a Costa Rica y Nicaragua tiene como objeto una mera visita de cortesía, para devolver las visitas de José Figueres y de Anastasio Somoza a la Argentina. En el fondo, sin embargo, parece ser que hay un definitivo objetivo político en la visita de PERON.

Se ha informado que, en los recientes meses, PERON se ha ocupado cada vez con más interés en un estudio de los problemas de la América Central. De acuerdo con estos informes PERON cree sea posible el influir grandemente en las juntas o consejos en la escena Latino Americana si consiguiera como seguidores a las Repúblicas Centro Americanas. PERON parece creer, que para triunfar en conseguir la adhesión de Centro América, él debe primero probar su poder, y segundo, debe de probar su genuina tendencia anti-comunista. Estos dos objetivos pueden lograrse si PERON demuestra habilidad en sacar del poder al actual gobierno pro-comunista en Guatemala. Se ha informado, por lo tanto, que el primer paso de PERON en su pugna por conseguir influencia y prestigio en la América Central será planear y financiar un extenso movimiento subterráneo en contra del actual gobierno pro-comunista de Guatemala. Este movimiento, según se dice, está planeado para conminar en remover efectivamente al Presidente Arbenz y a sus asociados comunistas de todo poder.

Se ha informado que los cálculos de PERON son, que habiendo sacado la amenaza Comunista de la América Central, la cual todos los otros países de la América Central temen y detestan de corazón, él podrá pasar como el libertador y protector de la América Central. No se sabe en que líder anti-comunista PERON dejará caer sus bendiciones, ni se sabe la cantidad de recursos financieros y militares que él intenta secretamente hacer disponibles para el golpe. Se rumora que varios exilados prominentes de Guatemala rivalizan por conseguir el favor y abastecimientos de PERON.

Aunque, oficialmente, la visita de cortesía de PERON en junio está supuesta a ser únicamente para Costa Rica y Nicaragua, se cree posible que él también se detenga en El Salvador para ver si lo consigue como aliado en un frente anti-comunista dirigido por PERON. No es posible decir, en este momento, como reaccionarán los diferentes países de la América Central. Aunque su disgusto por los comunistas está bien establecido, ellos están atados por ciertas obligaciones del pasado y de las cuales no desean deshacerse. Puede ser que este desagrado de parte de los países de la América Central de acometer algo en contra del comunismo en Guatemala es lo que ha dado la idea a PERON de que existe el campo para su liderazgo.

A MYSTERIOUS VISIT

Informed circles are speculating about the planned visit of Guatemalan exile Luis Coronado Lira to Buenos Aires. Coronado Lira, as is known, is the personal confidant and intimate friend of Lt. Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, the leader of a group of exiles in Honduras. In addition, Coronado Lira also acts as the de facto foreign minister of Castillo Armas. It will be recalled that Coronado Lira was the leader of a delegation of exiles sent by Castillo Armas to plead the cause of Guatemalan anti-communism at Caracas.

Coronado Lira is ostensibly visiting Buenos Aires, in the power complex of Juan Domingo Peron, in order to publicize a forthcoming "Congress against Soviet Intervention in Latin America," which is to be held in Mexico City from 27 May to 30 May. It is true that Coronado Lira has been touring various Latin American countries on behalf of that Congress. However, there is reason to believe that his visit to Buenos Aires represents more than just another routine speechmaking stop for the Congress. Informed sources indicate that Coronado Lira plans to plead Castillo Armas' cause with the Argentine President and to solicit his financial and military support for Castillo Armas.

It is further indicated that Coronado Lira has had some previous indication that he might succeed his Buenos Aires mission. Apparently, a man as much in the confidence of Peron as Coronado Lira is in the confidence of Castillo Armas has been acting as an intermediary and has advocated Coronado Lira's visit to Buenos Aires. It is not known with whom Coronado Lira will deal while in Buenos Aires but it is more than likely that he will be able to conduct responsible and promising talks, at least as far as the cause of his patron, Castillo Armas, is concerned.

In this connection, it must be pointed out that there have been rumors that the forthcoming visit of General Peron to Central America may well be connected with his desire to lead an anti-Guatemalan movement. Reports have also circulated that Peron has not yet settled on which Guatemalan anti-communist he will back and that several Guatemalans, generally aware of Peron's intentions, are vying for his favor.

If these reports are true, it may be that Castillo Armas has stolen a march on his competitors by sending Coronado Lira down to Buenos Aires to solicit Peron's favor. Of course it cannot be determined at this time whether and to what extent Coronado Lira will succeed. However, a certain elation has been noticeable in the last several days in the camp of Castillo Armas' adherents here, and this elation may have to do with very definite hopes attaching to "El Gordo's" (as Coronado Lira is called by his friends) journey.

It is believed that the present government of Guatemala is fully aware of Peron's intentions and has also been closely following Coronado Lira's preliminary negotiations. So far, no particular apprehension has been noted in official Guatemalan or Guatemalan Communist circles regarding Peron. However, it is believed that the Guatemalan diplomatic service has, or shortly will have, orders to gather all available information on Peron's anti-Guatemalan plans.