

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

AIR POUCH

HULA- 271

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS/RYPAT

24 MAR 1954

TO : [] []
FROM : LINCOLN COS, Guat

Info: Chief, WH

SUBJECT: GENERAL KUGOWN - PBSUCCESS
SPECIFIC Character Assassination of Rogelio CRUZ Wer

1. It is requested that the addressees make the most of achieving publication of the attached CP carnet of Rogelio CRUZ Wer. If possible, the attached press release should be used in conjunction with the photos of the CP carnet. (Note: The press release to be used by Mexico is different from that to be used by the other addressees. Neither of these press releases is to be used within Guatemala. The Guatemala Station may be able to propagate this story through rumor channels.)
2. Extra copies of the photographs are attached for the Guatemala Station with the thought that ESSENCE may have some special use for them.
3. LINCOLN requests a report of your action as well as a report on public reaction to this operation.

[]
JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachments:

- A. Press Release for Mexico (To [] & GUAT only)
- B. Press Release for [] (for these addresses & Guat)
- C. Photo of CP carnet
- D. Photo of inside of CP carnet

22 Mar 54

Distribution:

- 2 [] (w/att A: att C-10 copies; att D in dhpl)
- 2 [] (w/att B: att C-10 copies; att D in dupl)
- 2-Guat (w/att A; att B; att C-45 copies; att D in dhpl)
- 2-Hqtrs (w/att A & B)
- 7-LINC (w/1 copy each att)

~~Secret~~
Pbsuccess/Rybat

~~SECRET~~ a

The most startling development on the Guatemalan political front has just been reported by an unimpeachable source. According to this source, Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto, Secretary General of the Presidency and Secretary General of the PRN, is currently engaging in a series of secret conferences with Rogelio CRUZ Wer, Chief of the Guardia Civil. DIAZ Rozzotto, after sounding out CRUZ Wer, drew from the latter a direct proposal for a joint coup d'etat against the ARBENZ regime. According to the joint plans developed by them, DIAZ Rozzotto is to become the political chief and CRUZ Wer the military chief of the rebellion. For this purpose, DIAZ Rozzotto is secretly to mobilize the support of a number of influential members of the Guatemalan Congress, whereas CRUZ Wer will provide the military strength through his influence in the Guardia Civil and through Communist-trained partisan forces.

Each party to the conspiracy pledged the other to silence. But the information on their plans, according to our source, leaked out through the first supporters that they attempted to gain. It is known that, as of the date of this publication, President ARBENZ is not informed of these plans.

This is the first concrete evidence of the Communist plans for an outright coup in Guatemala. Rumors of a deliberate Communist coup have frequently been circulated but have never so clearly come to light as they have through the DIAZ Rozzotto-CRUZ Wer talks. DIAZ Rozzotto is known to be a secret member of the PGT and, in that capacity, has long

~~SECRET~~

been influential in making the PRN completely amenable to Communist dictates. CRUZ Wer, whose PGT membership card is reproduced below, is likewise a confirmed Communist and principal organizer of the underground Communist armed forces which are to be directed against the official Guatemalan army. Our source indicates that Jose Manuel FORTUNY and Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ, the leading avowed Communist figures in Guatemala, have apparently preferred to let the nominal government and military leadership go to DIAZ Rozzotto and CRUZ Wer rather than assuming it themselves. However, according to our information these Communist coup plans, scheduled for fulfillment before the end of this year, may still undergo drastic revision.

While DIAZ Rozzotto is a known figure on the Guatemalan Communist scene, the rise of power of CRUZ Wer in the PGT has been better concealed and is still largely shrouded in mystery. Sources familiar with his career believe that the roots of his Communist inclinations may have been found in a warped and unhappy childhood. However, he was an intelligent student at school and his superiors in the Escuela Politecnica readily recognized this. CRUZ Wer rose steadily through the ranks of the Guatemalan Army, occupying at various times the posts of Director of the Military Hospital, Chief of Section at the General Staff of the Army and Chief of the Military Zone of Zacapa. In addition to his military duties, CRUZ Wer profitted financially by selling

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

protection to gambling houses and by trafficking in marijuana.

It is reported that it was CRUZ Wer's desire for power that eventually made him acceptable to the Communists. Shortly after his enrollment in the PGT, he received his promotion to be Chief of the Guardia Civil. His administration of that office has been marked by rapid intensification of police brutality and by increasing application of Soviet-pioneered torture methods.

~~SECRET~~