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**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED**

29 May 1968

MEMORANDUM

2003

SUBJECT: Comments Re PBSUCCESS

1. There are conflicting opinions and versions of this operation. It is true the operation was painstakingly planned well in advance. The Guatemalan revolutionary contingent, however, was not able to follow through in execution of the professional planning involved. Some hastily arrived at changes and decisions had to be made. The important thing, however, is the operation succeeded.

2. Page 74, Paragraph 2 contains a gross inaccuracy. It is correct, a British freighter was sunk. It is not correct, however, that the Agency paid off the policy rather than run the risk of an inquiry. The insurers bore the brunt of the loss.

3. Re Paragraph 3, it is true there was a great deal of attention paid to the overthrow of Arbenz in after years. It is not fair, however, to say that the cover of U.S. participants was little more than a fig leaf. It also should not be cranked into the record that Station Chiefs five years later considered that any effort for the overthrow of the Castro regime in Cuba would be counterproductive for reasons stated in this paragraph. The Guatemalan operation is certainly not the basic reason for leftist propaganda talking about "Yankee Imperialism". In other words, there is no balance to these statements and they do not consider at all the totality of U.S. economic programs in the hemisphere which have given household usage in some sectors to the phrase "Yankee Imperialism".

(Signed) Jacob D. Esterline

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