

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

17 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : Jacobo Arbenz, Ex-President of Guatemala -
Operations Against

REFERENCE : WHD Memo to DD/P, dated 13 May 1957, same subject

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of DD/P. Such requested action is contained in paragraph 4.

2. Paragraph 3 of referenced memorandum suggests several courses of action in exploiting information compiled on Jacobo Arbenz. Implementation of these suggestions is proceeding. Paragraph 3d proposes assigning an Agency psychiatrist to the task of reviewing materials on Arbenz with a view to writing an assessment, a kind of character analysis which might, in fact, have been written by a doctor who had studied Arbenz in a series of personal interviews. Such a document might then be surfaced in such a place as Mexico, or Chile, as having been acquired from a Czech defector. Once published, area-wide exploitation would not be difficult.

3. This course of action is believed worth carrying out without delay since unlike certain other proposed courses of action it is not necessary for us to get a reading on his present intentions in order to go ahead. It is the opinion of this Division that depicting Arbenz as a thief, an adulterer, a murderer, or even as a traitor, would prejudice his loss in the public eye than painting him as incapable of governing because of mental illness.

4. It is requested that the DD/P authorize the Division to discuss the matter with []

J. C. KING
Chief

Western Hemisphere Division

WH/JCK/RMR:dm

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