

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECRET~~

DD/P 3-2818

DOCUMENT NO. 003  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S 2009  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 12/3/79 REVIEWER: [ ]

16 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Jacobo ARBENZ, ex-President of Guatemala, Operations Against.

REFERENCE: DD/P Memorandum to CWH dated 4 May 1957: Subject: Uruguay's Grant of Asylum to ex-President ARBENZ.

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. On 13 May 1957 ex-President ARBENZ of Guatemala arrived in Montevideo, Uruguay from Paris. His travels during the past two years have included Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, and sensitive reports have disclosed stays in Russia and China. Although ARBENZ probably views Uruguay only as a stepping stone to Mexico, a center of opposition to Guatemalan President Castillo Armas, the fact that ARBENZ is now in the Western Hemisphere is a disturbing one since he is now surrounded by other Latin Americans, including certain Guatemalan supporters.

3. With concurrence of the Department of State, the WH Division has scheduled its operations against ARBENZ into three phases:

- a. Period of several weeks, beginning about 26 April, during which Guatemala was the chief complainant;
- b. Succeeding period of several weeks when other Latin American countries would join the complaint;
- c. Period after 1 June (depending on developments) when the United States will probably give some indication of its views on the situation through diplomatic and OAS channels.

4. This Division is using, for the most part, four channels to direct its operations against ARBENZ:

- a. The Guatemalan Government and its diplomatic missions, via [ ] who has access to President Castillo Armas;

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
2003

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

- b. The Inter-American Confederation for Defense of the Continent, [ ] which has its own press association and a "solidarity-cable" mechanism;
- c. [ ] to Latin American Governments;
- d. The established FP assets of [ ]

5. A chronological biography of ARBENZ which includes declassifying information thus far not made public, has been produced. Now that ARBENZ has arrived in this hemisphere, Division efforts will be directed toward exposing his political and subversive activities, thus revealing his violations of the accepted rule of asylum and branding him a Soviet agent. His activities behind the Iron Curtain will be made public to the fullest extent consistent with the protection of going operations. Revelations about his unstable and unswerving character will show him unfit for public office. And the exploitation of other information involving the personalities surrounding ARBENZ is intended to widen the schism already existing between the Communist and non-Communist ARBENZ supporters.

6. Until such time as ARBENZ' intentions become known, the Department of State will defer defining the precise objectives for United States Government actions concerning him. State has reservations about the kind and extent of overt publicity to be generated in this case, owing to the probable effect on relations with the Uruguayan Government and the need that the Castillo Armas regime not appear unduly concerned about Arbenz' presence in the Hemisphere. Therefore, the WH Division is prepared to play a major role through its covert assets.

J. C. KING  
Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

WH

Distribution:

- Original & 1 - Addressee  
1 - IDCI  
✓ 1 - ID/P  
1 - C/PP/Staff  
1 - C/CI/Staff  
1 - WH/Chrono

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CONFIDENTIAL