

Oct 27, 1954

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Summary of PBHISTORY written for "Situation Report"

(d) PBHISTORY.

(1) This project, to exploit immediately 100,000 Guatemalan Communist documents for intelligence and propaganda purposes, was approved in July. By the first of August a team of 13 persons --eight from CIA, four from State and one from USIA--was on the scene in Guatemala City where it was known as the Grupo de Estudios Sociales (Social Research Group). The group was chaired by a CIA staff member, and was assisted by 25 Guatemalans provided by the Comit  Nacional de Defensa Contra el Comunismo (CNDCC) with which the Group worked closely.

(2) The Group sorted, selected, and sent autostat copies of 1300 documents and microfilms of 8,000 documents to Washington.

(3) A movie short was produced locally showing how the Communists flooded the country with propaganda. This was shown in Guatemalan theaters and sent via USIA for further Latin American distribution. A two-man Guatemalan good-will team went to Chile and is scheduled to visit Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo to tell the story of communism in Guatemala. Ninety special kits of documents, photos, explanations, and special articles were prepared by the Group and sent by the Guatemalan government to Latin American and European newspapers. Documents were given to the Honduran government for a White Paper on Guatemalan Communist interferences in Honduras. Documents were furnished to Representative Billings, Chairman of the Latin American sub-committee of the House Committee on Communist Aggression, headed by Representative Kersten.

(4) A document-and-records system was set up for the Comit , and name-check operations were started for the Guatemalan government. Training material on document-and-records procedure was given to the Guatemalan in charge.

(5) In Washington documents were distributed to State, USIA, FBI, Ambassador Lodge and the Kersten Committee. Copies of articles, photos, and documents were sent out to WFI field stations.

(6) Intelligence exploitation was arranged as follows: The PBHISTORY case officer will select and turn over to the desk items of possible current intelligence value. Items of possible interest to EC Division and STC/ICB will be routed to those components. Copies of all documents will go to EDP to be read against requirements of various government agencies. Photographs will be forwarded to Graphics Registry, and TSS raw materials to TSI. Copies of all documents will go to FI for carding and file. The Library will film all paper documents and will be provided with a copy of microfilm so that any particular document can be called for by number and a photo-like copy issued for retention. The PBHISTORY case officer will issue an index-log report giving a list of the documents with short descriptions and their Library call numbers.

(7) The PBHISTORY field team will return to Washington early in October

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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