

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM ~~SECRET~~  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

3 September 1954

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Trip by Two Guatemalans Exposing Communist Activities of Former Regime

1. Two Guatemalans began a trip through South America on 1 September 1954, supplied with samples of Communist propaganda, photographs of documents, and a documentary film showing Communist activities under the Arbenz regime in Guatemala. The local Guatemalan embassies are expected to sponsor press conferences for the visitors.

2. The two persons are Virgilio RODRIGUEZ Beteta, Guatemalan Ambassador to Chile from 1937 to 1943 and to Colombia from 1948 to 1952; and Jose Alfredo PALMERI, a columnist on "El Espectador," known locally as "Jap".

3. The first stop was to be Santiago, Chile, presumably on 2 September, and succeeding stops are expected to be Montevideo and Buenos Aires.

4. The Guatemalan government had originally planned to send an Army officer and newspaper man, but RODRIGUEZ was named instead in order to make the representation more impressive. The plan has been strongly attacked in the local press.

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Note: Based on Guat 233 (IN 41600)

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