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"Asylees"
Guatemala

BACKGROUND:

1. The Guatemalan Government has made no progress on the problem of how to dispose of some 770 asylees who have sought sanctuary in 9 Latin American missions in Guatemala City nor has the government any policy on how to solve the problem, other than a determination to resist pressure that they be released because this would be a communist threat to Latin America.

PROPOSAL:

1. State Department considers the most desirable solution would be one clearly establishing the principle that the traditional benefits of asylum should be denied to international communists. It feels this principle can best be embodied in bi-lateral arrangements between Guatemala and the host countries, along the following lines:

a. Hosts withdraw benefits from communists and criminals against whom charges supported by prima facie evidence are presented, i.e. evict them to Guatemalan jurisdiction;

b. Guatemala immediately grant safe conduct to the relatively harmless and guarantee to the others evicted that they will be treated humanely and prosecuted in good faith if they are accused of crimes; offer transportation to those who want to go to and are accepted by an Iron Curtain country, release and rehabilitate the harmless.

2. If such bi-lateral arrangements cannot be achieved, State Department proposes that dangerous communists be offered safe conduct to Iron Curtain countries conditioned on their being transported and accepted by these countries.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

1. State Department will send instructions along the above lines to the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala and the matter will be presented to the Guatemalan Government for their consideration. (If the Guatemalan Government adopts this approach, Henry Holland of State Department will go to Mexico and present the proposal to President Cruz.)

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE IN FULL

2003

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