

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

SECRET

100-A-1257

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AUG 13 1954

Chief, WH
Chief, RI
Chief of Station, Guatemala

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Records, Report No. 1

1. The purpose of the following report, is to advise Headquarters of the problems presented and the action currently being taken.

2. The paper mass was found, as anticipated, heaped in individual rooms of one central building. The material was only roughly organized in the seven following categories:

- (a) CNGO - Confederacion Nacional de Campesinos de Guatemala
- (b) CGTG - Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Guatemala
- (c) PGT - Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (The Communist Party)
- (d) PRG - Partido Revolucionario de Guatemala
- (e) SIND - Sindicato de Trabajadores de Educacion de Guatemala
- (f) CTE - Confederacion de Trabajadores Guatemaltecos
- (g) Correspondence and records of Maria V. de Arbenz

With few exceptions, no separate file series were found within any of the above categories.

3. Priority was given to each category and a first rough sorting was begun. The PGT material is receiving highest priority. To date, a rough sort has been made on each group except the SIND and CTE material, and the records of Senora Arbenz. This first sort is netting approximately fifty percent destruction. However, even at that, the CNGO material alone, remains at roughly thirty five to forty linear feet of paper. In order to realize this first operation, the paper is merely scooped into boxes and rapidly gone through. Bundles of printed propaganda type material including books and publications are included in each category. Of this material, three or four copies are being held the remainder is destroyed. Everything which is handwritten or typewritten is held.

4. Second processing has been undertaken on only the PGT material. This consists of a joint operation between members of our unit and that of State. At this stage, all handwritten and typewritten material is separated and broken down by organization of origin or intended receipt. The printed material is divided into domestic and foreign. The domestic material also being broken down into or sectional elements. The PGT records are the only ones to have received this so far.

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5. During the first and second processes as described above, material which appears of immediate interest is withdrawn and is being held for autostating and pouching. No reproduction equipment has been set up, since it arrived in Guatemala customs on 16 August. Material for filing has been also set aside and to date consists of approximately eight to ten linear feet of paper and will increase daily. The paper is of four colors, white, pink, green, and blue and is mostly tissue. It also contains white, blue lined notebook type paper which contains handwritten material. An area can be set aside for filing very easily. The two men team requested in my previous cable can be used immediately, and requests to begin filing operations by members of the State Unit are increasing.

6. It is the opinion of this officer that the present files, when set up in phase two of this operation, will form an active archival set up for use of the new organization, and will not be added to in the future. The new files should be set up according to the new Organizational structure and will probably have a geographical basis. The only exception to this will be the active personality files which will be added to on a current basis. I will proceed along these lines unless Headquarters advises differently. At any rate, it is felt that an inventory survey by a member of Headquarters staff would be very beneficial to expediting the entire operation, if made in the next two to three weeks at the latest. However, the microfilm unit should be here at the soonest possible date.

7. [] is holding up very well under the pressure of the entire job and is an invaluable asset to our presence here.

8. Upon request of the local organization we have drawn up a draft of a card for complete identification and reference to all employee files. A rough draft of this is attached for Headquarters comment. Since time did not allow for Headquarters coordination, this has already been submitted.

ATTACHED

August 12, 1954

Distribution:

5 - WASH (w/att)
5 - Files

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