

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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TO : Chief, WH []
FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala
SUBJECT: GENERAL - PBHISTORY
SPECIFIC - Progress Report 4-9 August

DATE: _____

Attached herewith is a PBHISTORY Progress Report during a period of
4-9 August.

[]
FRANCIS T. MYLKE []

ATT: (A) MYLKE-CALLIGERIS Interview
(B) Propaganda Exploitation Plan

August 9, 1954

Distribution:

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PBHISTORY

PBHISTORY PROGRESS REPORT 4-9 AUGUST

1. The PBHISTORY chairman, on 4 August, his arrival date, immediately contacted the acting station chief and arranged for an appointment with the Ambassador. The PBHISTORY action plan was outlined and approved by the Ambassador who went into some detail explaining the local political scene and how it would effect the work of the committee. The Ambassador was most cooperative and before he departed he introduced the chairman to the Embassy Charge, with instructions to arrange for an interview with CALLIGERIS/MYLKES the following day. (For details see Attachment "A").

2. The chairman was unable to immediately see Sr. Juan MIRON, the Comite leader because he had been wounded in the abortive uprising of the past weekend. However, on 6 August he did meet the current Comite leaders, as arranged by CALLIGERIS' private secretary. These individuals proved to be completely receptive to the work plans as outlined. Surprisingly they tangibly carried out several suggestions regarding appointment of qualified Guatemalan personnel to aid in the documents sorting. The following operational and administrative items were resolved pending the approval of MIRON:

- a. Special entrance carnets for U.S. personnel
- b. Installation lighting fixtures to permit night work
- c. Designation work priority regarding documents
- d. Reviewing of general Comite organization with promise for later consideration and possible revision
- e. Arrangement physical space after completion of floor plan.
- f. Mutual explanation re: each group's delegation authority and responsibilities
- g. Fixing work hours
- h. Guatemalan personnel needed for documents sorting
- i. Introduction by both Guatemalan and U.S. teams

3. On 7 August MIRON returned to assume his command, limping badly on a bullet shattered leg. The chairman went into details of the actions which had been taken by him and what plans were being developed to exploit the commie documents. The pitch to MIRON was that our group was here only to give assistance in exploiting the communist documents and secondarily, to give organizational aid to the Comite. In addition to these points the chairman pointed out his anxiety that MIRON be conscious of the fact that the Comite must maintain the closest relations with the government propaganda ministry. The chairman advised that CALLIGERIS had suggested that ESSENCE be introduced to MYLKES by MIRON. MYLKES pointed out the inherent danger of bad press and publicity of such a powerful and secret organization as the Comite might be, if a clear explanation, properly slanted, was not readily available to the press. Also preparation of a regular weekly or monthly activity report, also properly prepared from a public relations viewpoint be submitted to the President and his closest followers was recommended. It was pointed out that this information would not violate any of the Comite's security or expose its

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sources. If properly prepared, it would minimize the possible antipathy by government heads, increase the Comite's prestige, and reduce unfavorable newspaper opinion which might draw a comparison with the Gestapo of NVD. MIRON was in favor of such action and agreed to arrange an interview to be attended by MIRON, ESSENCE, MYLKES, and LANGEVIN. At this meeting LANGEVIN will propose various methods of exploiting documents already found after MYLKES has described in general the necessity of creating a good press for the Comite. For LANGEVIN's plan of document propaganda exploitations see Attachment "B".

4. On the afternoon of 8 August the second phase of the documents exploitation plan went into effect, with the U.S. and Guatemalan forces both commencing full scale sorting of valuable and worthless materials. No content selection of material was attempted and a considerable amount was achieved at this first preliminary sorting. MYLKES delegated the RI member of the team to organize and direct this sorting operation, which proceeded quite rapidly despite general lack of familiarity with the material.

5. It was stressed at this sorting that maintaining duplicate documents was in order and that the most liberal interpretation should be given to the sorting of the documents at hand. Within a short time large piles of paper were on the way to the incinerator and the huge heaps of paper were now being sorted into boxes, to await a second and more selective sorting. It was noted that all members of the three agencies were conducting this work on the most harmonious base possible.

6. On 9 August with increased Guatemalan members (total sorting crew now involved 25 people) the basic sorting operation picked up speed. (detailed account of the details of the sorting will be forwarded by [] of RI.) In the afternoon of 9 August the secondary selection work began. This work was conducted concurrently with those of less experience who were doing the basic sorting. The secondary sorting was done by 2 ODACID and 2-4 KUBARK members.

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ATTACHMENT "A"

MYLKES-CALLIGERIS Interview

In accordance with the Ambassador's instructions, Krieg called for an appointment and later in the day Krieg was advised by the President Secretary Sr. CORONADO Lira. MYLKES and Mr. Vallen had their appointments with CALLIGERIS 1730 hrs. For convenience sake Mr. Vallen was included to meet CALLIGERIS to explain this labor organization activities. At the appointed hour Mr. Krieg first presented Mr. Vallen who described his mission and then left this office. MYLKES then went in to the CALLIGERIS office and was greeted most cordially by a quite surprised CALLIGERIS. Krieg immediately went over MYLKES cover story, stating that the Department had been selecting men from private business, libraries, and Universities, to conduct the documents analysis work. CALLIGERIS asked no questions and then conversation turned to MYLKES mission. MYLKES in a general statement described the importance of his task from both an intelligence and propaganda viewpoint. He stated the purpose of Committee was to assist the Guatemalans in every way possible in immediately exploiting the commie documents. To accomplish the task, MYLKES carefully explained the calibre and qualifications of the various specialists who would soon arrive. It was pointed out how these people would be able to assist the Guatemalans in organizing and their Comite and exploiting the mass of propaganda material.

CALLIGERIS stated that our people should request the Comite leaders to place one of our people in direct contact with Enrique SALAZAR, who is the director of the Guatemalan Ministry of Propaganda.

It was also discussed that SALAZAR would be helpful in arranging for good press for the Comite and its activities.

The interview ended mostly cordially with an exchange which regarded [] absence from Guatemala. CALLIGERIS stated that he needed [] bably during these trying reconstruction days. He said he had information to the effect that [] would not return to Guatemala City before 16 August.

Finishing the meeting which included CALLIGERIS' congratulations for MYLKES usual latin saludos for each others and families health. Upon leaving CALLIGERIS' office it was noticed that there were large groups of people lingering in the presidential palace. All of these people had the look of office seekers clearly stamped all over them.

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ATTACHMENT "B"

PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION PLAN

Propaganda exploitation of documents uncovered by the "Social Research Group" firmed up on Monday 9th August at a meeting attended by MYLKES and LANGEVIN, leaders of the Comite, and the Minister of Propaganda. All were completely cooperative and accepted the exploitation ideas set forth. As a result the following projects are now underway:

a. Local

1. Publication of photographs taken by the team within the country of the massive stacks of documents, some with corner insets of Russian works, in Spanish, with Moscow postmarks on packaging. Others with huge photographs, paintings and posters of Stalin, Mao, Lenin, Malenkov and Arbenz among the confusion of documents.
2. As important, revealing documents which can be exploited for propaganda purposes come to light article resumes will be delivered to the Minister of Propaganda. His reportorial staff will write articles, slanted for certain newspapers and sections, from these resumes. Photographs of documents responsible for the arrest of communists will be printed with the articles describing their apprehension, etc.
3. Preparation of a short newsreel sequence of the documents to be placed in all Guatemalan theatres.
4. Preparation of radio material. A meeting has been held with the Director of TGW who has promised full cooperation.

b. International

1. Release of important photographs direct from the Ministry of Propaganda, to international photo and news agencies, newspapers and diplomatic missions. The covert and semi-covert side of this will be aided by USIA. Arrangement is being made through them, for instance, for the fabrication of plastic mats in Mexico, to be released from Guatemala.
2. Articles slanted for specific newspapers. When the team uncovers a document linking the Communist Parties of Guatemala and Chile appropriate newspaper release will be sent (by the Ministry of Propaganda) to a Chilean newspaper. This procedure will be used concurrently with direct delivery thru our Station or Embassy channels.
3. Insertion of newsreel sequence in international news service.
4. Radio material for use on TGW short wave, reaching Mexico and neighboring Central American republics.
5. A team appointed by the Government, and representing it, to make a rapid tour of all Latin American capitals. One ranking officer and one civilian. In each Latin capital they will hold an intimate

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cocktail party for military corps and attaches, giving away kits of the atrocity pictures that are too rough for normal publication, photostatic documents, etc. They will explain to "brother officers" the danger, for them, of infiltrating Communism. This trip will also be valuable to the new Government as a spot check on their diplomatic representatives abroad, many of whom have been extremely uncooperative with the new regime.

6. Eventual publication of a booklet with photographs and detailed translations of the documents uncovered. A note in the book will say that the documents are on display in such an such a place, and that all diplomatic representatives are invited to inspect them at any time.

The above represents the general line of exploitation being followed. Naturally there will be other on-the-spot innovations and preparation of black material whenever possible. State and USIA representatives are working closely with the KUBARK team, and the local authorities are definitely tractable.

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