

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

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DD/P 4-1280

Following handwritten note  
by FGWiser on copy:  
To [ ] - This is an interesting  
roundup - I have released it to Henry  
Holland who was pleased and very impressed.

26 July 1954 *etc/p file*

2003  
/s/ FGW

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACTING CHIEF  
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS STAFF

SUBJECT: Report on Actions Taken to Counteract Unfavorable  
World Reaction to Overthrow of Arbenz Regime in  
Guatemala

1. The following is in response to your request for a report  
on the status of area division and field efforts to counteract un-  
favorable world reaction to the recent events in Guatemala.

SR DIVISION

Radio Athens (Pyrex), Radio Free Russia, Radio Rome and  
Vatican Radio carried favorable broadcasts on Guatemala. Interpre-  
tive coverage given once or twice a week stressed the following  
lines:

- a. Guatemala was pointed to as an example of how commu-  
nist inroads would fail without the support of the Red Army,
- b. Guatemala was cited as a foolhardy communist adventure  
and another example of the labor and welfare of the Russian  
peoples being squandered to pay for expansionist ambitions of  
the Kremlin.

Guidance and background material furnished to SR was dis-  
tributed to emigre groups and stories in the emigre press gave  
events in Guatemala favorable coverage.

SE DIVISION

Greece: Reaction favorable so no intensive action called  
for, guidance sent and [ ] asked to pouch useful press cover-  
age for play other areas.

Albania: Lead article in August edition of Shquiperis  
Digest will be on Guatemala.

FE DIVISION

Philippines: Headquarters suggested Magsaysay send congratu-  
latory cable to Armas. Field objected on grounds Communists would

have chance to

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have chance to term Magsaysay a U. S. puppet. Headquarters [ ]  
[ ] but as yet the message has not been sent.

Thailand: Materials sent for use in anti-communist indoctrination school as case study in communist takeover techniques.

Japan: Advised by headquarters of priority nature of matter but no reports on action taken by field.

China: Instructed to use Guatemala events to encourage anti-communists on the China mainland.

Malaya: Local press favorable but [ ] as been asked to use influence to get good coverage from Philippine press picked up.

Indonesia: No capability for getting a pro-U.S. line across since country anti-American.

Burma: No guidance sent. FE wanted to make this selective and did not routinely send out materials to all [ ]

#### EE DIVISION

Germany: Special arrangements made with quasi-official agency which undertook to persuade numerous papers to use favorable materials on Guatemala. Articles and editorials received so far as a result of this are not considered very useful -- one, in fact, quotes the Reston piece on CIA participation in Guatemala. No other reports received from field on action taken. German newspapers normally sympathetic to the U.S. reacted very unfavorably to Guatemala and Division has suggested as only feasible line to counter this is that the communists by charging U.S. with colonial aggression are trying to mislead world opinion to cover their own aggressive designs.

#### NEA DIVISION

India: Cable guidance to New Delhi with lines to support the theme "It can happen here" (Communist aggression) and instructions to use the lines to counter adverse publicity only if the Guatemala issue is still a news item, to take no immediate action if the issue is dead, and to prepare to exploit the issue when the trials begin in Guatemala. The field replied that light emphasis was placed on the Guatemala situation and that further exploitation at this time not feasible.

In response to

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In response to a headquarters suggestion the New Delhi [ ] is planning to send a controlled Indian journalist to Guatemala to cover the trials.

Jordan: Cable was sent to Amman containing lines to support "It can happen here" theme and same instructions as to New Delhi. No reply has yet been received from the field.

Egypt: Cable to Cairo identical with that to Amman. No reply yet received.

Iran: Cable to Teheran requesting [ ] assessment of local press reaction to events in Guatemala and asking whether Guatemala is still receiving editorial comment. Teheran replied that little interest shown, that general assumption was that the U.S. was responsible for the revolt and the feeling was that the U.S. had a definite right to protect itself in such a vital area.

#### WE DIVISION

France: Field advised of continuing nature or priority on counterbalancing original unfavorable impression about Guatemala with Agence France Presse suggested as best outlet for material. Contact made with head of AFP for this purpose but difficult to evaluate result since AFP coverage from the beginning was the most factual. Headquarters also suggested treatment in La Verite, the Feature News Service and the Economic-Political Journal. No action on these has been reported. The [ ] is now attempting to confirm information that members of the Guatemalan Embassy in Paris are preparing to escape to Czechoslovakia on false passports. If the information can be confirmed exploitation is planned.

United Kingdom and Italy: Unsuccessful attempts made to get Guatemalan ambassadors to make statements favorable to the U.S.

Scandinavia: Well-documented article has been prepared for use in Denmark, no firm publication date has yet been reported. Background material sent to Stockholm and Oslo for possible use in series of feature articles.

#### IO DIVISION

The International Organizations psychological warfare coordinating group in Paris has been requested to consider means

of telling the

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of telling the true story in Guatemala. Support materials are being forwarded to enable such organizations as the Congress for Cultural Freedom to make reports on the methods and results of communist takeover. It has also been suggested for field consideration that IOD assets might sponsor a team to go to Guatemala at the request of the new regime and make first hand observations. No reports on action taken in the field have been received.

[

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Chief  
Information Coordination Division

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