

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
STC/ICB
RELEASE AS SANITIZED []

TELEPHONE NO. 688

NO. *100P-1-1774*
DATE 24 July 1954

TO	FROM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1. C/STC			<i>24 July</i>	[]	3535	<i>file - HISTORY</i>
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24 July 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Summary Report on CIA Team to Guatemala City

1. A two-man CIA team spent 2 weeks (4-17 July) in Guatemala City in order to ensure the acquisition of documentary evidence on the Communist conspiracy in Guatemala, and to organize an ostensibly Guatemalan effort towards intensive investigation of the Communist complex for purposes of accomplishing its exposure and destruction.

2. The team inspected the headquarters of the Communist Party, of the trade union confederation (CGTG), and of other front organizations which had been locked by the authorities after the ouster of Arbenz. The Communists had apparently been surprised by the collapse of the regime, and left behind a vast amount of documentation. Destruction of records by anti-Communists, and probable removal of especially sensitive documents by the Communists, however, occurred.

3. Documents available for exploitation--apart from Government files--number over 150,000. They reflect, in strictest summary, strong Communist influence in the Arbenz regime, infiltration of Government, and the structure and personalities of a substantial part of the Communist apparatus--the Communist Party and its transmission belts: trade unions, peasant organizations, youth groups, etc. Some of the Communists' overt international connections are evidenced, but no documents evidencing Soviet control of the Communist movement in Guatemala have been found to date. Available documents constitute a firm basis for the functioning of a national security service in smashing the remaining elements of the Communist movement.

4. The few documents brought back from Guatemala, after a brief preliminary sampling, consist mainly of certain papers cached by Arbenz at the time of his resignation, and communications addressed to the Ministry of Government and to the Peasant Confederation (CNCG).

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In summary, the documents reflect: Communist influence in Arbenz' regime, at the very top; Army efforts (5 June 1954) to induce him to eliminate that influence, and to base himself and a nationalist policy on Army support; his rejection of Army efforts; moves made by his Foreign Minister to counter U. S. criticism and win Latin American allies in the declining days of the regime; a strong protest by his Foreign Minister against acts of police brutality in Guatemala before fall of the Regime; steps taken by pro-Arbenz political parties and the Peasant Confederation to organize armed defense of the Regime; and consternation over Arbenz' resignation.

5. The CIA team stimulated the creation of a Junta-sponsored Guatemalan Investigative Committee which will, upon approval by Castillo Armas, conduct open and secret back-track investigations in order to obtain the full picture of national and international Communism in Guatemala. The Committee will be under covert CIA control

6. This Committee, already operating on an informal basis, will centralize all records and information on the Communist complex, and arrangements have been made to secure CIA, State Department and USIA access to the documentation.

7. A joint CIA, State Department and USIA team will proceed in the near future to Guatemala City for the exploitation of the documents. Under CIA chairmanship, the joint team will divide responsibilities as follows: CIA will exploit the documents in order to assist the Guatemalan authorities with the liquidation and exposure of the Communist complex, in addition to guiding the formation of a viable Guatemalan security organization; State Department representatives will screen the documents for photo-reproduction and study in Washington; USIA will examine the same materials for possible exploitation.

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