

James Givens

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM July 1954
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: []
SUBJECT : Disposal of Airplanes

Cable traffic summary on this subject:

9 July LINC 4729:

8 July [] 1090: [] is anxious for Castillo Armas to pick up the P-38; the P-47 is ready to be picked up. Asks advice regarding the procedure for [] to follow to acquire P-51's from the US.
To LINC
DIR

8 July DIR 08174 to GUAT: Request Ontrich acknowledge DIR 07861.

6 July DIR 07861 to GUAT; LINC: Ontrich's most immediate task is to straighten out disposition of AC's as directed in LINC 4688.

5 July LINC 4688: [] is suggested as the Castillo man to pick up F-47 from [] after a few days. Castillo should pick up P-38 immediately and turn it over to Col. []. Castillo is to turn Cessna 180 over to [] Castillo should request additional aircraft at once through US channels. Ideal solution to aircraft problem may be for [] to procure P-51's from US and sell F-47's and spares to Castillo.
To Guat
[]
DIR

4 July DIR 07778 to LINC: Recommended reply to Sher 548 as follows:

- a. Syncarp recognized obligation to leave [] with 3 operational F-47s or equivalent.
- b. If satisfactory to Castillo, we will settle for disposition of 3 operational F-47s to [] to Castillo. These aircraft must be immediately operational.
- c. Syncarp will give maximum

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(written by Bissel after consulting with Holland)

help to [] in procuring additional fighter aircraft overtly from the US.
d. Advise [] that F-47s are scarce and spares are even more scarce, and that it may be wiser for him to procure F-51s than to keep F-47s.

Recommend for Guat: Castillo should send trustworthy pilot to Somerset in a few days to pick up one F-47.
Recommend [] for this assignment.

Sher 548 to LINC, DIR: [] is agreeable to proposal re F-47s (LINC 4673). He would release P-38 as soon as Castillo settles in Guatemala City; and one F-47 after all danger of overthrow is past. [] wants a (the) third F-47, but he would prefer F-51 if he can get all F-51s. [] would like Syncarp's political help in buying additional fighter aircraft from the State Department.

LINC 4673 to Sherwood for Brodfrost:

1. Following represents firm position of Hqs on entire Subject A/C:
 - a. P-38 be given to [] by Castillo.
 - b. Cessna 180 turned over formally Castillo with understanding he will give it to []
 - c. Cessna 140 turned over formally to [] with understanding he will give it to []
2. CIA policy that formal transfers should be through governments to individuals if possible.
3. Re F-47s Hqs views as follows: statement of objectives
4. These objectives best served by following specific steps:
 - a. Two operational F-47s plus wrecked F-47 should remain in [] possession. These would be planes with least evidence battle damage.
 - b. Other two operational F-47s should be held for probable later delivery to Castillo.
 - c. Pending such delivery Castillo should be encouraged to explain that planes he used for liberation movement are being held in operational readiness in case he needs them at a location he does not wish to disclose.

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d. [] should be assured that if at later date he wishes to sell his F-47's and replace with P-51's he will be able to do so.

SHER 536
to LINC

[] does not want shot up F-47's left with him nor P-38 which bombed the British ship.

LINC to
SHER

1. Turn over three operational F-47's plus wrecked F-47 to []
2. Remaining F-47 must be returned to FJHOPEFUL soonest.
3. Turn over P-38 to [] on condition he give it to [] on behalf of Castillo immediately.
4. Turn over to Castillo C-47 he is now using.
5. Instructions on Cessnas forthcoming soonest.

SHER 526
to LINC

1. Original agreement with [] as follows: Syncarp buy, through [] three F-47's. Two F-47's to be given [] in return for his support and one F-47 in exchange for P-38.
2. [] feels P-38 blown and does not want it. He would like the following agreement:

a. Syncarp give Castillo the 4 F-47's plus spare parts and replace F-47's with three P-51's plus spare parts for

[] or:

b. Give Castillo three F-47's and [] keep one F-47. Syncarp to send two F-47's to Somerset making total three. [] keep F-47 spare parts.

3. No F-47's leave Somerset until replacement aircraft A or B arrive.
4. FCP suggestions given.
5. Spare parts.
6. [] further requests that Syncarp assist him in obtaining State Department approval for him to purchase from U.S. seven additional F-51's and adequate spare parts and maintenance equipment.
7. Give Cessna 140 to [] as pay for his services. [] concurs).
8. [] does not want under any condition two different types fighters. He can only train pilots and maintain one type.

LINC 4562
to SHER

1. Aircraft involved in PBSUCCESS were:
 - a. 3 C-47's
 - b. 6 F-47's
 - c. 1 P-38
 - d. 1 Cessna 180
 - e. 1 Cessna 140

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2. Losses have been 2 F-47's, one at Somerset crash landing plus mishandling [] the other battle casualty crashed at Chiquimula.
3. Three of six F-47's were purchased from [] with understanding should be returned to him when no longer needed. Same true of P-38.
4. Other F-47's and Cessna 140 purchased by Syncarp.
5. Cessna 180 taken by Syncarp following change [] title with understanding should be given [] when no longer needed.
6. 3 C-47's only loaned to Project and no obligations re other disposition involved.
7. Recommend: 3 F-47's and one CAT C-47's turned over to [] P-38, F-47, and Cessna 180 turned over to [] with assurance more F-47's or equivalent will be delivered by Syncarp. Give Cessna 140 to [] Return other two C-47's to original owners.
8. Please send comments.
9. If agree authority hereby given to complete all arrangements as soon as LINC advises no longer any need hold in reserve.

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