

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. [] 241

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : COS, Lincoln

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS

DATE: 12 March 1954

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— ERIOPHYLLOUS

SPECIFIC— Project Outline

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

Enclosed herewith is the project outline for project ERIOPHYLLOUS
pertaining to PBSUCCESS.

[]
Francis D. Magoffin

Enclosures:
Project outline

11 March 1954

Distribution:
2 - Lincoln w/encls
1 - Info Headquarters w/encls

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PROJECT ERIOPHYLLOUS

OUTLINE

PART I.

1. Area of Operations:

Basically Nicaragua, with Central America and Mexico affected to the extent local propaganda is picked up and re-disseminated.

2. Purpose:

To provide a controlled medium for dissemination of propaganda required by the PBSUCCESS KUGOWN operation.

3. Background:

The present outlets available to the [] for KUGOWN purposes provide facilities for placement of anti-communist material in general and to some extent specific material pertaining to Guatemala; however, the outlets are not sufficiently controlled to make possible a sustained and concentrated attack on specific targets. For this reason, it is necessary to create a group which is motivated both ostensibly and actually by ideological reasons for attacking communism and the present government of Guatemala. The group which is herein contemplated is such a group.

4. References:

LINC 671, [] 865, LINC 824.

5. Objectives:

A. To organize a front which will in turn originate and disseminate propaganda directed against communism in Central America and the present government of Guatemala.

B. To disseminate such material as is furnished to them by the [] through the out-out.

6. Targets:

Present government of Guatemala and communism in Central America. Communism in general is not believed to be a logical target, since this is amply covered by HBDRIILL.

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7. Tasks:

A. The Principal agent--to recruit subject of [] 865 in the name of an anonymous business group composed of PBPRIME and KMFLUSH citizens who are interested in combatting the spread of communism in Central America; after the formation of the required group by subject of [] 865, to supervise and control the activities of said group in the carrying out of the objectives listed in para 5. To secure periodic accountings from the group of funds expended. To act as cut-out for passing propaganda material and funds to the group.

B. Subject [] 865--to organize a front composed of Guatemalan citizens in exile under the name of "Guatemaltecos Libres" or a similar name. To appoint individuals in the group to carry out group tasks and see that they are performed. To maintain liaison with the principal agent and to see that tasks assigned by him are carried out. To make any necessary arrangements with the local government legalizing the group and its activities.

C. Front group--to originate propaganda directed against communism in Central America and particularly against the present government of Guatemala. To disseminate such propaganda together with that which is furnished to it by means of pamphlets, posters, newspaper and radio, in the name of the front group.

8. Coordination:

Assistance of other [] stations and Lincoln will be required for furnishing propaganda material to the group.

9. Personnel:-

A. Ref: [] 865. Identity A--ERIZO
Identity B--ERISTIC

B. Operational or Security Clearance: ERIZO--POC granted by LINC 824;
ERISTIC--POC granted by DIR 38445.

10. Cover:

A. ERISTIC- []

B. ERIZO- []

C. Case officer with ERISTIC--normal social relationships.

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11. Contact and Communication:

A. Case officer and principal agent--contact will be maintained through normal social relations.

B. Principal agent and sub-agent--clandestine communications will have to be set up after the sub-agent is recruited by the principal agent. The principal agent has an office in the city which he may desire to utilize, or he may desire to have the sub-agent come to his home. Inasmuch as the program will be planned in advance, it is not foreseen that contacts more than once weekly will be necessary.

C. No special problems of communication are foreseen.

D. In view of the fact that meetings will be of a routine nature with both parties available at places of business or at home, no alternate or emergency communications are believed necessary.

12. Control and Motivation:

A. ERISTIO-- []

B. ERIZO--control is basically financial; []

13. Equipment and other Support:

No special equipment will be required. Support from headquarters and Lincoln in furnishing appropriate propaganda and propaganda guidance will be required.

14. General Comments:

At the present time it is contemplated that upon the completion of the internal organization of the group, it will issue, as a paid advertisement taken in all local newspapers, a statement of the fact of its existence, together with a statement of its policies and objectives. It is believed that the latter should be prepared by Lincoln in order that it will agree with, at least in essence, the stated objectives and policies of SCONBER. This will accomplish two purposes: (a) it will immediately establish before the public the fact of the existence of such a group so that it will be known as a real identity when future propaganda is published in its name. (b) it will establish good will on the part of the newspapers toward the group for having spent money on advertising; having spent money for advertising once, it will presumably do so again, making the newspapers

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more receptive to the free publication of news releases from the group. Following the identification of the group in the public mind, it is proposed that it shall hire radio time, probably one hour daily, which shall consist of a musical program with propaganda interspersed at the breaks. A straight propaganda program would not be listened to, and it is believed that propaganda put forth in terse statements at the breaks would be much more effective. In addition to the radio program the group will make press releases in its name relative to current events in Guatemala, either real or fictitious; it will secure the publication in the local press of material furnished by headquarters and Lincoln; where a sustained campaign on a particular theme is desired, it will buy the necessary space in the newspapers if it cannot obtain it free. This can be done in a format that does not appear as an advertisement; however, in some instances it is believed that propaganda which is unquestionably a paid advertisement will be more effective than what appears to be a straight news story, as the format can be arranged more effectively to call attention, plus the fact that it will be definitely identified with a group which is known to have first hand sources of information.

As part of the paid advertisement campaign, it is contemplated that in its original ad, the group will state that contributions from sympathizers will be welcome. In later ads, names of hundreds of contributors, fictitious if necessary and including the names of some known leftist sympathizers, will be included together with the amounts contributed, again fictitious. For larger sums, the names anonymous will be used. This should explain the source of funds of the group together with creating friction among the local Guatemalan sympathizers. It will also demonstrate popular local support.

For control purposes it is not contemplated that the group will be composed of more than a working force, probably not to exceed ten persons; more than this number is likely to result in internal friction and make the group unwieldy for action purposes.

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PROJECT ERIOPHYLLOUS

OUTLINE

PART II.

15. Estimated Costs:

LINC 876 authorizes \$1000 per month for this project, provided the project is approved. It is probable that one salary not to exceed \$200.00 per month will have to be paid in order to assure one full-time person devoting his entire efforts to the project. At the present time it is impossible to state how much in additional costs will be incurred, as this is dependent upon the intensity of the campaign desired by headquarters. However, in view of existing directives, it is believed that the remaining \$800.00 will be adequate.

16. Special problems and commitments:

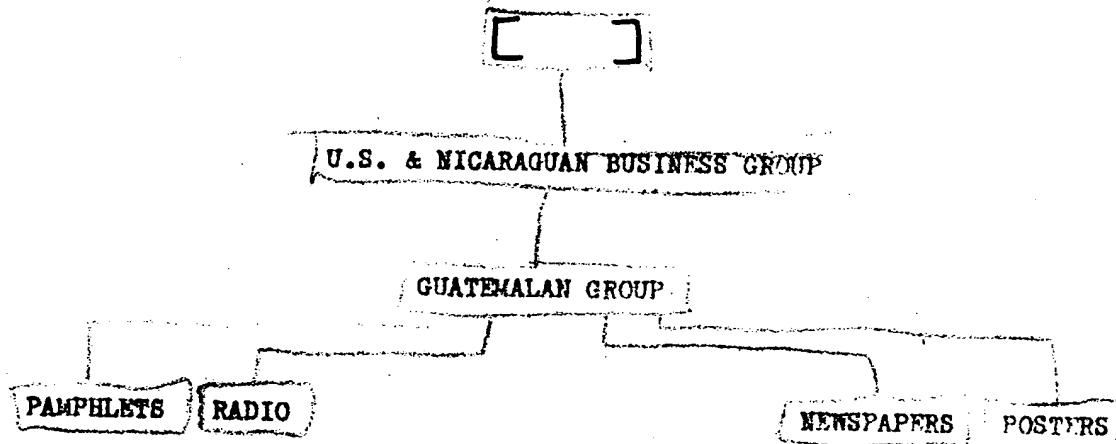
- A. There are no present commitments. ERISTIC has been recruited to act as principal agent if the project is approved, but no commitments have been made to him.
- B. There will be no agent disposal problems.
- C. No commitments with regard to death benefits, etc. have been made.
- D. A change in the present government would probably require the termination of the project provided the new government were oriented toward the present government of Guatemala. However, such a change is not foreseeable within the possible life of the project.

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