

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

Translation of a letter received from Rufus, 25 August 1953
JRS

22 August 1953

1. [] will leave Tegucigalpa on Monday, 31 August. He will be in Washington about 15 September. Yesterday he returned from a visit with our friends in El Salvador.
2. I have complete confidence in Somoza and in our plan to put a base there. The reasons for my confidence are;
 - a. Somoza has shown himself very enthusiastic and desirous of co-operating with us. For example he sent at his own expense (\$4000.00) one of his pilots to the U.S.A. to inspect planes for us.
 - b. He has promised us one of his big bombers (B-24) completely equipped. I offered to pay for it. He said no we could have it for nothing.
 - c. Somoza has placed at our disposal his military base at Puerto Cabezas.
 - d. At the proper moment Somoza is prepared to bring about any necessary agreement for joint action between Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. This he has assured me.
 - e. He knows moreover that he cannot deceive you and your friends.
 - f. Lastly, it serves his own interest to help us because he realizes that the threat to Nicaragua is greater than ever before. This he told me personally the last time I saw him.
3. Yesterday WT gave me \$10,000.00. I need another \$10,000 immediately if I am to meet heavy commitments coming up at the end of the month. I am very sorry to have to raise this subject again but, I beg you to please send me some money as soon as possible.
4. A friend in Panama has offered to sell me an LCI properly equipped for the operation we have in mind. He asks \$10,000.00 This ship is more suitable than the Bali Hai as the Bali Hai has been modified for commercial use.
(Note: the Bali Hai has not yet been bought by Rufus.)