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25 January 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Fulton Lewis's TV Program on "Guatemala" at 7:45 P.M., Friday,  
22 January.

Lewis had as guests Julius N. Cahn of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff and Senator Bourke Hickenlooper, both of whom had recently been in Guatemala. Mr. Hurley, assistant to Mr. Lewis, set the stage by stating that Guatemala is the size of Tennessee, and then gave some of the products, principally coffee. Tourists were once but are not now, it was said, a thriving business. He pointed out that the political structure is Communist-controlled, but not known as the Communist Party.

Mr. Cahn, a young man, was a very effective speaker. He said he had just returned from Guatemala, which is six hours by air from New Orleans and two hours by air from Panama. He told of the seizure of property by the government and declared that the independence of the Judiciary has disappeared. He said religion is rapidly disappearing and there are only some 180 priests in the country and no more are wanted. He referred to the agrarian so-called reform, and the so-called cultural reform under Communist leadership and said the press is strangled and that 78% of the inhabitants are illiterate. He stressed that a new international airline travels from Guatemala to Montreal, Canada, and does not touch down in the United States.

Senator Hickenlooper said he was just back and that the United States had no fear of a military danger from Guatemala but that the country could furnish bases for guerrilla operations in South America. The present conditions, he said, result from laxness in past administrations for several years. Over two years ago, he declared, our State Department refused to come to grips with the problem then presented. There are only 3,000 Communists in the country, he said, and the solution would appear to be in the education of the people. An uprising by the Guatemalan people against the new type of servitude under the Communists, who are usurpers of the government, would some day occur, he hoped.

Mr. Lewis concluded the presentation with the statement that, by refusing to accept Guatemalan coffee, the United States could cause the fall of the present Guatemalan government.

STANLEY J. GROGAN