

INFORM ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Guatemala

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 31 Dec 1943

SUBJECT Col. Arana's Plans for a Military Junta
25X1A2g
25X1A6a

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. On 18 November, a political observer in Guatemala stated that Col. Jorge Barrios, Secretary to Armed Forces Chief Francisco Arana, and Col. Marco A. Merida, a national deputy, would be likely candidates for the military junta to be established after Col. Arana's forthcoming coup d'etat. The junta would rule for the remainder of President Arevalo's six-year term (until March, 1951).
2. Source also predicted that Arana would remain in his present position rather than become a member of the junta. He added that Arana would actively prepare for his own election as president when the junta rule terminates.
3. Arana incurred general disfavor with organized labor when he recently ordered military police to confiscate several hundred cudgels which were being brought into the city by rail for the SAMF (railroad union) headquarters in Guatemala City. It was generally believed that the sticks were to be used to subdue members of a rival union, the Sindicato de Trabajadores del Ferrocarril (STF).

Document No. 10
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO TS S C
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
 Date: 10 MAY 1978 By: 022

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 10 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
 Next Review Date: 2008

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