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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Jose Lion Depetre, Spanish Republican recently appointed Director of the newly established Guatemalan Institute of Diplomatic Training, has expressed his interest in a communication to Lic. Roberto Molina Pasquel of Mexico City in the possibility of a Mexican company obtaining a contract for road building in Guatemala. In spite of President Arevalo's public denial that his administration had any intention of borrowing money for road building, Lion Depetre stated that the Arevalo administration was going to allot twenty million dollars to road construction, which, he said, the government did not wish to concede--for political reasons--to the gringos.
2. Arevalo's remarks were in refutation of a statement made on 16 March 1949, by the Guatemalan Minister of Communications to the effect that Guatemalan plans to solicit a loan for road construction. Arevalo has declared that the limited amount of road paving and improvement that would be accomplished during the last two years of his administration would be done with such funds as may be allotted for this purpose in the general appropriations.

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**Comment.** It is possible that President Arevalo felt called upon to deny his Minister of Communications' statement in view of the possibility that the money might be borrowed from the Import-Export Bank of Washington. Since the present Guatemalan budget does not provide any great sum for the construction of highways, such construction would of necessity have to be financed by borrowing.

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