

~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Costa Rica

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 13 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Disposition of Costa Rican Armament
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Guillermo von Breymann Figueroa, one-time gunsmith, former Nazi, and former Mauser representative for Central America, has been named director of an armory to be established in the yard of the Presidential House, where all Costa Rican armament will be stored and maintained. From this armory it is planned that only minimum quantities of arms and ammunition will be issued to municipal and provincial enforcement units.
2. A cursory inventory of all arms has been taken since the attempted coup of 2 April and disclosed that an expected quantity of pilferage occurred during the excitement coincident with the suppression of the insurrectionists. There was, however, a specific quantity of arms removed from the Artilleria Cuartel on 1 April which have not yet been located.
3. The arms taken from the Cuartel included 180 Reising machine guns, 350 Mauser rifles remodeled into carbines, and 20 cases of ammunition. The material was taken in two trucks under the orders of Colonel Edgar Cerdona, Costa Rican Minister of War.

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Comment. Inasmuch as the political grouping of the country at present tends to personal "istas" ranging from the Communist Vanguardistas to the far right Cerdonistas, all of whom are more or less disposed to violent opposition tactics, the location of an arms cache of this size is of importance to the government.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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