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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Communist Influence in Guatemala and El Salvador

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. [redacted] who recently returned from a trip to Guatemala and El Salvador reported that there is much sympathy for Russia and North Korea, and hatred for North Americans, among intellectuals in these countries.

2. The majority of important intellectuals in Guatemala are Communists and receive salaries from the government, [redacted] who was impressed by the high standard of living they maintained. In talking with them he was unable to advance the slightest defense for the United States without being called a Yankee slave or a dirty reactionary. All of the anti-American and anti-imperialist propaganda was reportedly fomented by Arevalo, in whom his admirers find some similarity to Peron. It was pointed out that both men represent the reaction of socialism to American exploitation.

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3. The periodicals, [redacted] do not exhibit the same anti-Americanism, because a country as small as Guatemala cannot afford such arrogance. However, the people of Guatemala take into consideration this temporary necessity and await the day when it will no longer be necessary. [redacted] was convinced that the Communists in Guatemala receive instructions directly from the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, and said that those with whom he talked made no effort to conceal this.

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4. The following Nicaraguan exiles were [redacted] being employed by the Arevalo government of Guatemala: Edelberto Torres, in the Department of Public Instruction; Armando Amador, in the Department of Labor; Alberto Cordonez Arguello, on Arevalo's propaganda staff; and Carlos Castillo Ibarra, who, while not actually employed by the government, receives money from the government to cover his living expenses.

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5. Amador, who has also a bookstore in Guatemala City, recently received a shipment of books from a Mexican publisher, which were to have been sold at propaganda prices. However, Amador sold them commercially and made a sizeable profit. At a Communist meeting in Mexico City, the publisher of these books accused him of being an exploiter of the people, and said that no more books would be sent to him. Despite this affair Amador apparently continues to be in good standing with the Party in Guatemala.

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- 25X1A 6. In El Salvador the propaganda was not quite so apparent, but that the general atmosphere was similar to that in Guatemala. The majority of intellectuals have been influenced by Arevalo and the 1944 revolution. Among those who expressed sympathy for the Russians and hope for a North Korean victory were Roldano Velasquez, a writer and former secretary of ex-President Castaneda; Quino Caso, director of *Nuestro Diario*; and Mamel Aguilar Chavez, who had just returned from a congress of newspapermen in New York.
- 25X1A 7. However, no evidence which would indicate that President Osorio supports this kind of thinking, either directly or indirectly. Francisco Hernandez Segura is employed in the Department of Labor, but he has been expelled from the Salvadoran Communist Party. Hernandez has become prosperous and seems to be happy about the separation.

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