

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

520

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SUBJECT

Panamanian Political Matters  
Juan Jose Arevalo

DATE DUE

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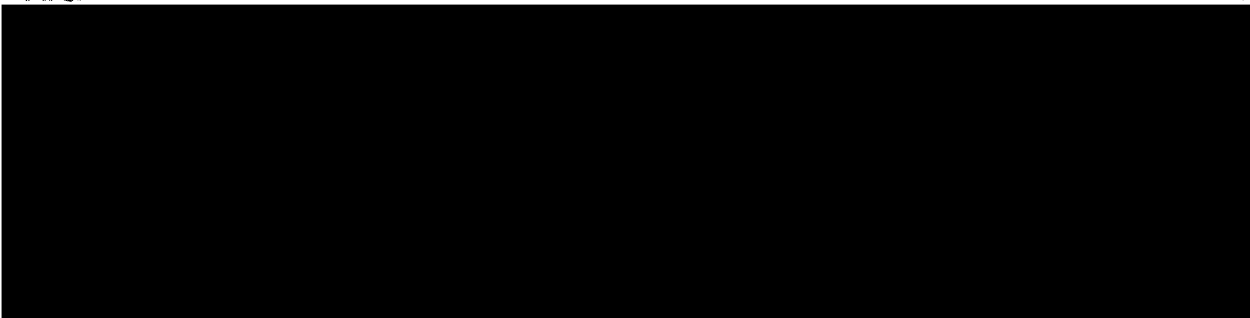
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(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

Prior to 24 October 1951.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO



1. [redacted] the Guatemalan Government is rendering financial assistance to the Partido Frente Patriotic (PFP) of Panama through Oscar Benitez Bone, the Guatemalan Minister to Panama. Although these charges have never been substantiated, they were made public by Panamanian officials in May 1951. This resulted in numerous articles in support of Benitez in local periodicals, particularly on the part of the PFP.

2. [redacted] Juan Jose Arevalo, ex-President of Guatemala, was seen several times in Panama City, after his arrival on 4 October 1951, accompanied by Oscar Benitez Bone. Arevalo was entertained by Octavio Mendez Pereira, Rector of the Panama National University, who held a party for him. Among those who attended the party were: Jorge Illueca, Carlos Ivan Zuniga, Ramon Jurado, and Ricardo J. Bermudez. The majority of Arevalo's associates during his recent visit were known PFP leaders of the more radical type. A review of information regarding the individuals reflects the following:

Jorge Enrique Illueca Sibauste - Extremely nationalistic leader of the PFP. Deputy to the Asamblea Nacional (legislative body) of Panama. Was recently Panamanian delegate at the UNESCO Conference in Paris. Anti-U.S. Politically ambitious, and in this connection has both used and been used by local Communists.

Carlos Ivan Zuniga - Leftist columnist and Secretary of the Ministry of Education. Active PFP member.

Ramon H. Jurado - Fellow-traveler. Prominent member of the PFP. In 1949 was one of the Panamanian delegates to the Pro-Peace Congress held in Mexico City. Recently appointed Director de la Direccion General de Cultura y Biblioteca in the ministry of Education, which is headed by Ricardo Bermudez mentioned below.

Ricardo J. Bermudez - Prominent member of the PFP. Communist sympathizer who has been closely associated with Communist leaders in the Republic of Panama. One of the founding members of the local Permanent Pro-Peace Committee. Presently Panamanian Minister of Education.

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Octavio Mendez Pereira - Formerly the Director of the Regional Center of UNESCO in the Western Hemisphere. Recently re-elected Rector of the University of Panama. He is anti-U.S. and a suspected Communist sympathizer.

Diogenes De La Rosa - One time leader of the Socialist Party and closely associated with the local Communist Party. He is presently serving as an advisor to the President of the Republic of Panama.

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3. [REDACTED] Arevalo, while in Panama, held a three-hour conference with Diogenes De La Rosa. Arevalo remained incognito during his stay because he was reportedly in Argentina during the abortive revolt and did not want the students of Panama asking him questions concerning the Argentine situation.
4. Arevalo departed for Guatemala on 9 October 1951 via Guatemalan military aircraft from Tocumen National Airport.

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