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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Guatemala/Nicaragua
SUBJECT Pessimistic Attitudes of Businessmen/Improved Economic Conditions in Nicaragua
PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) Guatemala City/Managua
DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) Early Feb 54
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US citizen, vice president of a large leaf tobacco company.

Source returned in mid-February 1954 from a business trip to Central America. Although he paid only brief visits to Guatemala and Nicaragua, he has been in both countries on many prior occasions and has a number of contacts among leading businessmen and, in Nicaragua, highly placed government officials. He has a fair knowledge of Spanish and has made a number of previous reports.

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2 The INCORPORATED was subjected to the persecution prevailing in Guatemala is at once obvious. Although my observation was limited, I saw enough to confirm the impression made on other occasions that the country's economy has improved somewhat since the 1950s, but that the benefits have been confined to the upper economic strata. The increasing number of the lower classes, and although their general material position has not greatly improved, their year I observed many families of workers and peasants who had production of their crop has increased in the past year. The INCORPORATED has been exporting to Western Europe. I asked what type of cooperation it was receiving from the United States, only that it was the same as always. Its health is apparently good. Although he is a dictator for the time being, it is not likely that he would be elected by an overwhelming majority. I was told that the INCORPORATED should consider re-organizing under some other name, but I do not know what to suggest. In order to gain the support of the United States, the INCORPORATED should extend cooperation with the United States. The INCORPORATED has had the opportunity to visit the United States, and it is possible that it would be in a position to...