

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASES SANITIZED

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o/a 1 Mar. 54

The Honorable _____
Ambassador of The Republic of Panama
Managua, Nicaragua

2003

Most Esteemed _____:

In the furtherance of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Republic of Panama and the Republic of Nicaragua, I have the honor to call certain developments to your Excellency's attention. In doing so, my Government wishes to assure your Government that it attaches no special significance to these developments, and merely wishes to communicate them for whatever benefit they may be to the Republic of Panama.

The developments referred to above have to do with the activities of a certain Jorge Isaac Delgado.

It appears that this Delgado, for reasons unknown by this Government, recently furnished certain information to the Government of Guatemala, relative to an alleged "plot" against the Government of Guatemala. As has already been stated by my Government, this information does not concern the Republic of Nicaragua; however, the manner in which this Delgado furnished the information may be of interest to the ^{Republic} ~~Government~~ of Panama.

1. ~~It will be recalled that Delgado~~ Among the documents furnished by Delgado to the Government of Guatemala were papers allegedly signed by one "Carlos Castillo A[~]mas" and by one "Centeno." According to allegations made in the Guatemalan White Paper, "Carlos Castillo A[~]mas" and "Centeno" were said to have been one and the same individual. However, scrutiny of the Delgado documents shows that the purported signatures of "Carlos Castillo A[~]mas" and "Centeno" are not identical and are, indeed, greatly dissimilar. It would therefore appear that the documents supplied by Delgado to the Guatemalan Government and thus signed were not genuine.

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2. Another document supplied by this Delgado to the Government of Guatemala purported to be a letter from the H. F. Cordes Company, of Hamburg, Germany, to an alleged "A. Somoza and Cia." As the H. F. Cordes Company itself declared to the international press on ~~the~~ January ^{29,} 1954, it has never supplied any weapons to anyone in Nicaragua, but has supplied submachine guns to the present Government of Guatemala. In addition, ~~the document~~ the alleged letter from the H. F. Cordes Company to "A. Somoza and Cia" purported to offer for sale a substance known as "napalm." According to the document, the H. F. Cordes Company, in describing the quality of the napalm, merely noted, "according to the specifications of the United States." This description of napalm is, of course, technically too imprecise and propagandistically too crude ever to have emanated from a firm engaged in the sale of arms. In fact, this description is rather reminiscent of Communist propaganda, which constantly attempts to associate the United States with the use of napalm. Be that as it may, the inference appears warranted that this Delgado secured a copy of the H. F. Cordes letterhead, presumably in the possession of the Government of Guatemala as a result of its arms transactions with H. F. Cordes Company, and on that letterhead typed the spurious offer of napalm to the "A. Somoza and Cia."

3. Finally, among the documents supplied by Delgado to the Guatemalan Government were several "letters" allegedly sent by Colonel ^{Anastasio} ~~Anastasio~~ Somoza, Jr., to a certain "Carlos Castillo Armas." At 1400 hours on ^{1,} February 1954, the Ambassador of Nicaragua to Guatemala had the honor to be received by the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Licenciado Guillermo Toriello. During that interview the Ambassador of Nicaragua pointed out to the Foreign Minister that the alleged signatures of Col. ~~Anastasio~~ Anastasio Somoza, Jr., on these documents supplied by Delgado could not possibly be genuine.

4. In apparent agreement with the remarks of the Nica Amba, the Govt of Guatemala at approximately 1600 hours on 1 February made an energetic attempt to withdraw from circulation all copies of the documents that it had received from Delgado and that it had published in support of its so-called "White Paper,"

It is apparent from the above that the genuineness of information and documents attributable to this Delgado is open to the gravest question.

~~Naturally, my Government is not concerned with fabrications and forgeries that are foisted upon a~~

Of course my Government is not directly concerned in such matters where forgeries and fabrications are foisted by citizens of one nationality upon the Government of another nation. My Government only considers it its responsibility to use its good offices to apprise the parties involved of the facts of the case and to safeguard them, where possible, against disruption of international harmony by such devious undertakings.

With the foregoing as background information, I wish now to call your Excellency's attention to a matter, involving the same Delgado, which does more directly impinge on the mutual concerns of both the Rep of Pan and the Rep of Nic.

In recent weeks, the same Delgado has apparently been engaged in the manufacture of cryptic ^{English-language (accompanying)} messages and rumours. His purpose, as before, appears to be to create the impression of some kind of "plotting" going on in Central America. These messages, mysterious and complex in content, are obviously designed to create friction between friendly governments.

These messages concern my Government only because this Delgado deliberately planted them in Managua in such a way that they would be brought to the attention of my Government and might give my Government cause for concern as to activities being conducted within Nicaragua by foreign nationals. A full study of this second group of Delgado documents has been made by my Government and has revealed them to be, as in the case of the documents which Delgado planted on the Guatemalan Government, vain and senseless fabrications. From the standpoint of the documents, the incident is therefore closed.

However, it is believed necessary for my Government to call to your attention the seriousness of ^{such} ~~the~~ ^{by} actions of a Panamanian citizen. Such actions,

were it not for the calm judgment and considerable tolerance which my Government has brought to bear in the study of them, could under less favorable circumstances mar the harmony of the family of Central American nations.

In the sincere hope that the foregoing information will prove to be of some assistance to your Excellency, I remain

Y^Urs most respectfully,
