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CLASSIFICATION

DISPATCH ~~12~~ 3-452

TO : CHIEF, LINCOLN

DATE 23 February 1954

FROM : [ ]

INFO: CHIEF, WHD

SUBJECT: Operational Information  
Associates of President ARBENZ

1. During a recent luncheon [ ] whose mother is related to the wife of President ARBENZ, made the following observations concerning the private secretary of Mrs. ARBENZ:

- A. The private secretary of Mrs. ARBENZ is one of the most important Communists associated with the Presidential family;
- B. This secretary is in close daily contact with Mrs. ARBENZ and indoctrinates her with Communist instructions and ideology;
- C. The secretary has also acted as personal liason between the Presidential house and high ranking Guatemalan Communists. In this manner Communists can circumvent lower Guatemalan Government officials and obtain direct access to the President through Mrs. ARBENZ;
- D. [ ] mother, [ ] previously reported to have leftist tendencies, called this secretary to [ ] attention when the secretary was in the entourage of Mrs. ARBENZ on a visit to [ ] home. [ ] adjudged the secretary a very dangerous Communist and attempted to discredit her in the eyes of Mrs. ARBENZ; and
- E. [ ] stated the secretary is to a great degree responsible for the favorable consideration given Communists in Guatemala as well as the leftist tendencies displayed by ARBENZ and his wife. Unfortunately, her name cannot be recalled by [ ]

2. [ ] expressed his personal opinion of President ARBENZ as follows:

- A. ARBENZ would not accept assistance from any group which proposed to remove Communists as he considers them the only honest and devoted civil servants in Guatemala;

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- B. ARBENZ is very opposed to wealthy land owners as exemplified by members of the Guatemalan Club who hold Spanish Conquistadores as their founding fathers;
- C. ARBENZ, while currently unwilling to turn against Communists, is still under control of the Army and Government, and, if he so decided, could single handedly lead the Army against any group which invoked his wrath;
3. [ ] attached considerable importance to the fact the current Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Guillermo TORIELLO, owns a large finca in Esquintla which has not been divided nor in any way molested by Communist-controlled peasants;
4. AREVALO, before leaving Presidential office, passed thousands of arms to Guatemalan labor unions which were, and still are, under control of Communists;
5. [ ] also stated President and Mrs. ARBENZ constantly invite his family to visit them in Guatemala. [ ] is a cousin of Mrs. ARBENZ. [ ] expressed his intentions of making a trip to Guatemala in the near future to ascertain the political situation from the Presidential family; and
6. [ ] is sincerely anti-Communist and has indicated his willingness to assist the fight against it in any manner within his power. His father has PEPIE citizenship as a result of service in ODIBEX in WW I and [ ] under JUBATE during WW II.
7. Charles F. FURWELL pointed out at a recent LINCOLN Conference the potential political action possibility both father and son possess, in the event direct access should be required to President ARBENZ.

INCLOSURES:

None

23 February 1954  
PLP/hdv

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[ PHILIP L. FURWELL ]

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