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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY, SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE

Paragraphs 1 and 2 based on well-placed contacts in official circles, (B);  
from an official of a friendly government in Guatemala, (F).

Paragraphs 3 and 4 based on a wide acquaintance in political circles, (B);  
from a friend of Mrs. ARBENZ's family in [REDACTED] (F).

Appraisal of Content (B)

At a gathering at the home of a foreign diplomat on 23 December 1953, Antonio VILANOVA, brother of the wife of President Jacobo ARBENZ of Guatemala, and his personal business manager, discussed the political situation in Guatemala. It was generally improving and the Communist, who were endangering the government of ARBENZ, were being removed. By the end of 1954, he asserted, all will have been discharged from their positions. VILANOVA added that the Guatemalan political situation would be more stable by December 1954 than that of El Salvador.

A friend of ARBENZ's wife's family stated that ARBENZ is not a Communist and would remove them if possible, but that this removal would not be because he disliked Communism, but rather because of his distaste for Communist intervention and control in his government. He explained that ARBENZ could not now remove the Communists, as the Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR), which is controlled by them, has more arms than the Army, which he considers essentially loyal to ARBENZ.

This friend of the family described ARBENZ as a strong personality whose primary desire is to divide the land in such a manner as to increase the productivity, and thereby, the standard of living, of the Guatemalans. During a three-month visit, several years ago, at the home of this relative, ARBENZ was impressed by the extensive use of land by Salvadorans and expressed a desire to see a similar condition in Guatemala, where he considered large parts of the land were not being utilized properly. ARBENZ felt the United Fruit Company and other large landholders must release part of their extensive holdings to the small owner-farmer, who he felt would cultivate the land more assiduously and in this way improve the general standard of living.

Washington Comment. This appears to be somewhat wishful thinking on the part of both Mrs. ARBENZ's brother, who is said to be non-Communist, and the friend of the VILANOVA family, since if one Communist is removed another takes his place and so on to non- under the ARBENZ regime.