

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: CHIEF, WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIVISION

NO.

DATE

11 January 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. COP				[]	Two P.B. Success reports which may be of interest. ESSENCE is an anti-communist Guatemalan student leader. EYES ONLY
DD/P					
CWIT					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					To CWIT JC
11.					Just what is being done in this area in the two line states of what he - then mail for advanced I have seen
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

Note: HGG 594 filed after 593

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2003

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TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. <u>EOP</u>					<p>Two P B Success reports which may be of interest. ESSENCE is an anti-communist Guatemalan student leader. EYES ONLY</p> <p>[] To CWH.</p> <p>JL - Just what is Essence talking about. In lieu of his notes, as in these same instances to his statements. If even 50% of what he says is true - then matter and twice as far advanced (personally) as I have ever heard.</p> <p>What say? []</p>
DD/P					
CWH					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

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VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

RY PAT

DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-593

~~SECRET~~
Security Information
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD
FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala
SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS
SPECIFIC— Psychological Barometer Report (Period ending 20 December 1953)
Reference - HGG-A-578

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1. The element of expectancy reported in the last two psychological barometer reports has been sustained during this period and the general situation is extremely fluid, subject to sudden change.
 - a. At the close of the reporting period a prominent lawyer whose law practice consists largely of agrarian matters stated that abuses connected with the application of the agrarian reform are creating further unrest among farm owners. According to this source, Carlos Manuel PELLECCER, leading communist, has been agitating among rural campesinos, encouraging them to establish themselves as squatters on cultivated land not subject to expropriation and distribution under the agrarian reform law. Squatting has been pronounced in the Department of Escuintla, which one source referred to as a virtual "communist state." It has been reported that most of the illegal squatting has taken place in the past two weeks. Source believes that this represents an aggressive change in communist tactics whereby they hope to extend their influence and infiltration and consolidate their power prior to the much-discussed invasion or a possible internal revolt by rightist forces.
 - b. In connection with the foregoing, a source close to Alfonso MARTINEZ, head of the Agrarian Department, is reported to have stated that he (Martinez) recently conferred with President Jacobo ARBENZ and after complaining about communist abuses stated that he could not control the situation much longer, probably not beyond December 1953. Source inferred that Martinez thereby served notice that he too may be entertaining anti-government thoughts and like other officials may be planning a break with Arbenz in view of the mounting reports that opposition forces are determined to overthrow the government.
 - c. The last barometer report noted rumors that Army officers were planning a coup (with Arbenz' approval). Such rumors have been followed by allegations that the communists themselves are now planning a coup in order to protect their position. There is no evidence available to confirm these allegations. They are mentioned here to illustrate the multiplicity and variability of "plot" conversation and related unrest.

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- d. On 23 December 1953 a press article stated that the different exiled groups had met in El Salvador and agreed to unite. General Miguel IDIGORAS Fuentes was reportedly chosen supreme leader of the various groups, which included those headed by Guillermo FLORES Avendano, Juan CORDOVA Cerna, and Carlos CASTILLO Armas. It is reported from other sources that this alleged unification of the opposition forces in exile is causing considerable apprehension among government officials.
- e. Other aspects of the current situation remain relatively unchanged. There are no significant economic factors to report. Turmoil and conflicts within the official parties is still receiving much public attention, and many people express the opinion that the "revolution" (meaning the unity of the pro-government elements) is disintegrating.

[George L. Tranger]

29 December 1953

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