

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE IN FULL

AIR

RYBAT

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*Finley*  
HCG-A-595

DEC 30 1953

Chief, WED

Chief of Station, Guatemala

PBSUCCESS

ESSENCE Activities

Reference -

- (a) HCG-A-582
- (b) CGUAT 919
- (c) HCG-A-594 JAN 14 Rec'd

The following sub-paragraphs contain information relating to ESSENCE activities since the preparation of reference:

- a. Donald O. HEDIGER reported on 23 December 1953 that united anti-communist activities in Guatemala are now being achieved by means of the recently-established Frente Anticomunista Nacional (FAN). ESSENCE claims that the Comite de Estudiantes Universitarios Anticomunistas (CEUA) is the controlling member of this united front and that all members except the Partido Unificacion Anticomunista (PUA) accept CEUA's leadership. Quoting HEDIGER's report, PUA "cooperates" but does not "submit."
- b. ESSENCE claims that he and associates have made valuable contacts on the staffs of the principal independent newspapers for the purpose of obtaining cooperation in the placement of anti-communist materials.
- c. Internal strife and conflicts between contending official parties is due in part (according to HEDIGER) to undercover agitation and the spreading of rumors by ESSENCE personnel. In addition, ESSENCE claims that members of his group have penetrated at least one official party, thereby avoiding government reprisal for outright opposition activity and at the same time placing themselves in a position to engage in disruption activities.
- d. ESSENCE has completed plans for two daily fifteen-minute radio programs. One will be clearly political and anti-communist and will depend in large part on the support materials requested in reference (a). Soonest possible action on those support materials is desired.

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The second fifteen-minute program will be principally reserve time in the event that the first is closed down by the government. It will be a music recording program at least in the early stages. Also according to present plans, it will serve as a signal device for anti-communist conspirators (e.g., a certain song played on a certain day will convey a pre-arranged message to anti-communists). ESSENCE claims that exiled groups outside Guatemala desire such a signal system for use in emergencies. (Details regarding ESSENCE's recent trip to adjoining countries and contacts with exiled groups are set forth in reference (c).

- e. By early January 1954 it is expected that El Rebelde will become a bi-weekly and ESSENCE is presently attempting to complete plans to make that publication a daily by mid-February 1954. ESSENCE claims that exiled groups have requested an increase in overt-type propaganda within Guatemala (see reference (c).

George L. Tranger

29 December 1953

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