

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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DISPATCH NO. [ ]-1354

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CLASSIFICATION

RYBAT #22

TO Chief of Mission, Guatemala

DATE 28 December 1953

FROM [ ]

SUBJECT { GENERAL PBSUCCESS  
SPECIFIC Guatemalan Procurement of Mexican Arms

Reference: HGG-A-571, 21 December 1953; [ ] 1349, 23 December 1953

1. [ ] has had no recent indication of Guatemalan attempts to procure "2,000 light automatic weapons" (or other weapons) as reported in the first reference.

2. a) The "2,000 light automatic weapons" referred to would necessarily be 7mm Mendoza light machine guns (actually automatic rifles) since no other automatic weapon of this type has been manufactured in Mexico.

b) Industria Militar, the munitions manufacturing branch of the Mexican Armed Forces, ceased producing Mendoza light machine guns during the first half of 1952. Almost all of these weapons manufactured remain with the scattered units of the Mexican Army.

c) The Office of the Military Attache states that it is doubtful that 2,000 such weapons are in existence. That office further states that if 2,000 Mendoza light machine guns were manufactured by Industria Militar, then the figure 2,000 probably represents the total or very near the total of such weapons produced by Industria Militar.

d) The Mexican Army, according to the Military Attache, is presently attempting to procure 50 Thompson sub-machine guns from the U.S. This would serve to indicate no surplus of automatic weapons in the Mexican Army.

3. With reference to the reported pending attempt by Guatemala to obtain Mexican weapons through the governor of the state of Chiapas, it would appear from the information presently available to [ ]

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that such arms would necessarily be:

a) Small amounts of discarded surplus items such as 7mm Mauser type rifles of Mexican manufacture; and/or

b) Weapons of foreign manufacture transshipped through Mexican ports. In view of the information reported in the second reference, the possibility of transshipment does not appear to be great.

4. [ ] will continue to be alert for any indications of Guatemalan attempts to purchase arms and ammunition. Any further leads in this respect will be appreciated.

Frederick K. Gollaher

FKG/cav

cc: 3 - Washington ✓  
1 - Guatemala  
2 - Files

1 extra copy attached for LINCOLN

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