(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

Security Information

CLASSIFICATION

RYBAT

HGG-A-577 DIS. ATCH NO. \_\_

UEC 25 1953

TO

Chief, WHD

DATE: \_

Chief of Station, Guatemala

SUBJECT: GENERAL-

**PBSUCCESS** 

SPECIFIC-

Activities of Carlos CASTILLO Armas

Enclosed for the information of Headquarters is a copy of a letter, dated December 15, 1953, from John W. FISHER, Guatemalan Desk Officer, Department of State, to Ambassador PEURIFOY in Guatemala City, and one copy of a letter, dated December 2, 1953, from Archibald R. RANDOLPH, American Embassy, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to John L. OHMANS, Honduran Desk Officer for the Department of State, relating to the above subject.

Clara M. Heagey

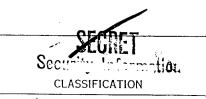
Enclosures:

2 letters as noted

22 December 1953

CMH/cmh Distribution: 3-Wash w/2 att (in trip)1-Files w/2 att

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FORM NO. 51-28 A

RYBAT

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

December 15, 1953

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Colonel Roberto Barrios Peña, in his conversation with me on October 8, claimed that Colonel Castillo Armas was living high in Tegucigalpa, having several limousines, numerous bodyguards et cetera. Jack Ohmans, Honduras Desk Officer, asked Arch Randolph in Tegucigalpa for his comments on this. A copy of Mr. Randolph's response is enclosed for your information.

Mr. Maurice B. Gatlin, a lawyer in New Orleans, has written the Department recently about his friend Colonel Barrios Peña, more or less repeating some of the latter's statements to me. Mr. Gatlin said he knew of the plans of a certain American business concern to finance an invasion of a foreign country (presumably Guatemala), and offered to supply details on request. This is being looked into. Mr. Gatlin has communicated with the Department and other agencies of the Government in similar vein on previous occasions. I understand that for personal reasons he is very hostile toward the United Fruit Company.

Sincerely,

John W. Fisher

Enclosure:

Copy of letter to Mr. Ohmans dated December 2, 1953.

The Honorable
John E. Peurifoy,
United State Ambassador,
Guatemala.

## The Foreign Service of the United States of America

American Embassy

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, December 2, 1953

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION OFFICIAL - Informal

Dear Jack.

In response to your letter of November 18, 1953, I can say that it is my observation that Castillo Armas lives here quite simply and appears to have lim ted means. I am informed by several of his "paisanos" who know him quite well that he has quite limited resources.

Mrs. Castillo Armas, is, I believe, a member of the Palomo family of Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala. The Palomo family, it is my recollection, was considered "muy rico". Whether this is true today or not, I cannot say. I have frequently seen her as I passed their house on my way to the office in the morning, returning from the market place on foot with a muchacha carrying market produce. Their family connections in Guatemala conceivably could be a source of some income. However, I do not know.

Should any further information be developed to shed more light in the way of replies to the questions you have raised, I should let you know.

Sincerely,

/s/ Arch

Archibald R. Randolph

John L. Ohmans, Esquire,
Office of Middle American Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.