

RYBAT

VIA: AIR
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DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-577

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Security Information
CLASSIFICATION

DEC 29 1953

TO : Chief, WHD

DATE: _____

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— Activities of Carlos CASTILLO Armas

has seen
[]

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)
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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.

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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 limited 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.