

AIR  
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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Security Information

HGG-A-582

2003

DEC 23 1953

Chief, WHD

Chief of Station, Guatemala

Operational

ESSENCE Activities

References: 1) HGG-A-529  
2) HGG-A-512

1. The following paragraphs contain additional information regarding ESSENCE activities which took place subsequent to those reported in reference 1):
  - a. Organizational and unification activity has been furthered by ESSENCE sub-agents who have been sent to provincial towns for the purpose of contacting local-anti-Communist groups. Such groups are encouraged to cooperate with the ESSENCE group and are offered propaganda support materials for local distribution. Sub-agents from provincial areas are also invited to visit ESSENCE headquarters for instructions, consultation, coordination, etc.
  - b. Small quantities of the publication referred to in reference 2) are being sent to provincial anti-Communist groups who are told to sell them and keep the proceeds to finance local anti-Communist activity.
  - c. On 8 December 1953 HEDIGER reported that the British Legation had offered to give the principal overt unit of the ESSENCE group certain materials for propaganda purposes. It is known that the British have in the past furnished such materials to local anti-Communist groups. Although it may not be possible for overt ESSENCE group members to plausibly reject this proffered aid, HEDIGER has been told to take security precautions in order to conceal the clandestine aspects of our relations with the ESSENCE group. ESSENCE himself will not become personally involved in this matter.

In connection with the foregoing incident, HEDIGER stated that the ESSENCE group member who received the offer of aid was presented with a card to be used in contacting "a woman employee of the Legation." This card was subsequently obtained from ESSENCE by HEDIGER and is retained in station files. The person named therein is a Guatemalan employee of the British Legation who is apparently identical with the identity cited in GUAT 816 and GUAT 817.

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- d. On 8 December 1953 HEDIGER confirmed newspaper reports that ESSENCE group members had apprehended one of several pseudo-anti-Communists who have been collecting funds "for the national campaign against Communism" under false pretenses. HEDIGER stated that this individual was "kicked about" and presumably convinced that he should find another way of making a living.
- e. On 18 November 1953 HEDIGER was asked to comment on the utility of the various types of KMFORGET materials channeled to ESSENCE units through him. Several comments from HEDIGER's reply follow for the interested Headquarters office: press clippings in the Spanish language and cartoons in Spanish or English are highly desirable; posters, leaflets, etc. from other stations or Headquarters that can be adapted for local use are very helpful; anti-Guatemalan materials from any source, items exposing Russian plots in Latin America, articles describing the miserable aspects of life in the USSR, and humorous anti-Communist material are most useful. Anti-Peron material has little use here.
- f. The second issue of the publication discussed in HGG-A-512 and HGG-A-513 appeared on 12 December 1953 and a copy has been transmitted to Headquarters under separate cover.
- g. On 25 November 1953 HEDIGER reported that ESSENCE members are preparing personalized articles designed to attack local Communist personalities. Each article will contain selected biographic data regarding the personality concerned. The completed articles are to be sent to Honduras for publication in the CEUAGE bulletin. HEDIGER suggested that the station might like to provide certain biographic data for use in these articles but it was decided not to do so in view of the fact that we are currently sending such data to Headquarters for exploitation and release through other channels may create a security hazard.

George L. Tranger

22 December 1953

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