

RYBAT

VIA: AIR
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DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-571

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TO : Chief, WHD

DATE: DEC 21 1953

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala []

INFO: []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— Guatemalan Procurement of Arms in Mexico

1. The following is a copy of a memorandum, dated 15 December 1953, written by Mr. John C. HILL, Second Secretary of the U.S. Embassy, Guatemala City, and entitled "Mexican-Guatemalan Relations: Arms Procurement and Other Matters." It is forwarded as being of possible interest to Headquarters and the Mexico mission.

"An informant told me today, on the basis of a report from a source he states he has in the national palace, that the Guatemalan Government had recently learned that the Mexican authorities had uncovered and stopped the shipment of 2,000 light automatic weapons which the Guatemalans had quietly obtained in a Mexican factory.

"As an alternative, the informant said, the Guatemalan government had some sort of deal under consideration by which arms could be obtained from the Mexican Governor of the State of Chiapas, who lives on the Guatemalan frontier. Colonel Rodolfo SANCHEZ, brother of the Guatemalan Defense Minister, was leaving shortly to conclude negotiations.

"President ARBENZ, the informant added, had received a confidential report from Roberto ALVARADO Fuentes, Guatemalan Ambassador in Mexico, that the Mexican Foreign Minister had given him to understand that the Mexican Government repudiated Communism and could not give any kind of support to any regime which had such tendencies or fomented them. Ambassador ALVARADO Fuentes had given it as his opinion that the Guatemalan Government was being conspired against in Mexico also, especially in the "bought press.

2. The source of the above information was not given.

[Clara M. Heagey]

18 December 1953

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