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DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-561

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD

DATE: DEC 16 1953

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— Psychological Barometer Report (Period Ending 12 December 1953)

References: (1) HGG-A-546 (3) HGG-A-549
(2) HGG-A-528 (4) HGG-A-550

1. Previous reports have stated that the basic feeling of hopelessness has been modified somewhat by developments which tended to create an environment more favorable to opposition sentiment and renewed activity. The fact that a majority of the populace still remains relatively inactive as opposed to the active minorities of the right and left probably means that apathy and/or hopelessness is still the prevailing majority sentiment. However, there have been several recent developments that appear to introduce an element of expectancy.
 - a. Rumors and reports of an impending invasion persist and coincide (as noted in reference 4) with pro-Communist and/or pro-government appeals for "revolutionary solidarity." At the same time a great deal of publicity and conversation has been devoted to renewed anti-Communist propaganda activity by local and exiled groups. Especially notable has been the publicity attending the founding of the Frente Anticomunista de Guatemaltecos en Exilio (FAGE). The announcement discussed in HGG-A-549 has been repeated throughout the reporting period. On 9 December 1953 the Comité de Estudiantes Universitarios Anticomunistas Guatemaltecos en Exilio (CEUAGE) published a strong attack ("Dictadura comunista en la CGTG") in El Espectador. It is believed that this article was the first by that organization to appear in the local press. Also adding to the feeling of expectancy is the announced national campaign of the Frente Anticomunista Nacional (FAN) to ban the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) as an illegal political party under the provisions of Article 32 of the Constitution.

It appears that the total effect of anti-Communist activity is being felt by target groups as demonstrated by reprisals against ESSENCE personnel, distribution of retaliatory propaganda (see HGG-A-529), and rumors that the police are trying to ascertain the identities of the persons and/or sources responsible for the anti-Communist propaganda.

15 December 1953

GLT/cmh

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[George L. Tranger]

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