

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

RYBAT

DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-560

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WHD  
FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala  
SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS  
SPECIFIC— Alleged Attempt to Smuggle Arms  
Into Guatemala

DATE: DEC 16 1953

INFO: [ ]

[ ]  
(was seen)

1. Attached for the information of Headquarters and receiving stations is a copy of a memorandum dated 10 December 1953 and prepared by Colonel V. P. MARTIN, U. S. Air Attaché in Guatemala, relating to a conversation he had with Mr. MESSER.
2. This station has no additional information concerning Mr. Dalwin MESSER and is unable to furnish any information concerning the truth or falsity of any allegations made by him.

[ ]  
Kenneth S. Givloch

Enclosure:  
Memorandum as noted

14 December 1953

KSG/cmh

Distribution:

- 3-Wash w/att (in dup)
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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

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The Foreign Service  
of the  
United States of America

Office of the Air Attache  
United States Embassy  
Guatemala City, Guatemala  
10 December 1953

MEMORANDUM of Conversation

TO: The Ambassador  
Mr. Krieg  
Colonel McCormick

- Participants: 1) Mr. Dalwin Messer  
2) Colonel V. P. Martin

Mr. Dalwin Messer, a U.S. Citizen, apparently engaged in shrimp fishing along the Pacific Coast of Central America, called at this office on 9 December 1953. Purpose of his visit was to ask assistance in contacting by radio a disabled fishing boat belonging to him which is at present at some unknown position off the coast of El Salvador.

Regarding his fishing operations he made the following statements:

(1) That the Guatemalan government hired him to make a shrimp survey of the Pacific coast and paid him eight thousand dollars (\$8000.00) for the eight-day survey.

(2) That he found a very large (8 x 22 mile) shrimp bed offshore near the Guatemalan-Salvadoran border.

(3) That a Guatemalan company has been formed with Edmundo Brol, brother of the Minister of Agriculture, as head. Brol purchased sixty percent (60%) of one fishing boat, Messer alleges.

(4) If the operation develops as he hopes, he will bring down about six shrimp boats from Los Angeles. Shrimp will be frozen on his boats and shipped to California via Grace and Johnson Line vessels from San Jose.

Messer claims to have been shrimping off Costa Rica recently. According to him, he was approached in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 19 November 1953 by two Germans unknown to him. These men knew he had a boat and asked if he would be interested in carrying contraband to Guatemala. They offered him thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to carry fifteen (15) tons of arms to Guatemala, to be unloaded at Champerico. Material was to have been loaded on Messer's vessel from another vessel in the Gulf of Nicoya. According to Messer he neither accepted nor turned down the offer, thus leaving the door open for possible future contacts.

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Messer asked several questions regarding the attitude of the present government toward U. S. business operations here. He appeared to be open and friendly in manner. His home base is Los Angeles, and he carries a World War II War Department identification card.

V.P. MARTIN  
Colonel, USAF  
Air Attache

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