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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT Secret Anti-Communist Attitudes of Two Pro-
Government Leaders/Land Reform Progress/Caribbean
Region

PLACE
ACQUIRED Guatemala

DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCE Oct 53 and earlier

DATE (OF INFO) Oct 53 and earlier

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SOURCE Guatemalan capitalist.

Source is one of Guatemala's foremost landowners. He owns a large coffee plantation and several thousand acres of cattle and lumber land. He is a member of the Association of Guatemalan Agriculturalists (AGA) and is anti-Arbenz. He is an elderly man, however, and does not identify himself with the younger AGA members, who advocate violent action to overthrow the government.

1. On 1 May 52 I had a private conversation with [redacted] who is now (late 1953) Number Two man in the Guatemalan armed forces. During our talk he quietly stated that that day he had tried unsuccessfully to persuade President Arbenz to take an exposed position on a balcony, where there would have been a chance for the opposition to assassinate him. [redacted] then said that even had Arbenz been shot it would not have done much good, since what was needed was to dispose of at least 100 Communists. However, he pointed out that the anti-Communist officers were unable to do anything so long as the Army and the country as a whole were so prosperous. My opinion is that if the coffee market were ever to collapse [redacted] would be among those who would seek the government's overthrow.

