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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division 9 November 1953  
 FROM: [ ]  
 SUBJECT: Program for PBSUCCESS

REFERENCES: A. "Guatemala - General Plan of Action", TS# , dated 11 September 1953  
 B. Project PBSUCCESS Status Report, dated 29 October 1953

A. Objectives

1. To remove covertly, and without bloodshed if possible, the menace of the present Communist-controlled government of Guatemala.
2. To install and sustain, covertly, a pro-US government in Guatemala.

B. Statement of the Problem

1. The Communists have become strongly entrenched in Guatemala and in the Guatemalan government, thus constituting a threat to United States welfare in the Western Hemisphere.
2. The Guatemalan non-Communist opposition has become disillusioned and disunited. However, a latent anti-Communist resistance potential is believed to exist.
3. The resistance potential must be built up to the point where it can contribute materially to the accomplishment of the objectives of PBSUCCESS.
4. In view of growing Communist strength and declining non-Communist cohesion in Guatemala, the implementation and successful completion of the objectives of PBSUCCESS must proceed without delay.
5. It must be recognized that any major effort to dislodge the Communist-controlled government of Guatemala will be blamed on the United States, and possibly on CIA. Covert accomplishment of the objectives of PBSUCCESS is therefore defined as meaning accomplishment with plausible denial of United States or CIA participation.
6. In order to provide plausible denial and to make maximum utilization of all assets, it is necessary to conduct PBSUCCESS as a third country operation.

C. Plan of Operations

1. Stage One - Staffing and Assessment - (D-?)
  - a. Assignment of Project Personnel
  - b. Field Survey by Communications Adviser

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- c. Briefing and despatch of Project field personnel.
- d. Assessment and analysis of friendly assets.
- e. Assessment and analysis of enemy assets.
- f. Preparation of detailed operational plans for Headquarters approval.

2. Stage Two - Preliminary Conditioning (D -?)

- a. Project Headquarters moves to the field.
- b. Create dissension and defection within the target.
- c. Discredit target at home and abroad.
- d. Demonstrate inability of target regime to represent best interests of the people.
- e. Create notional Titoist organization.
- f. Create hope and encourage patience among non-Communists.
- g. Initiate "ironic" diplomatic relations with target regime, with the United States acting as agent of OAS.
- h. Complete military agreements with Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador.
- i. Start withdrawal of US military personnel from target.
- j. Begin economic pressure.
- k. Establish a government-in-exile with a positive program.
- l. Begin formation and training of a para-military force in exile.
- m. Assess accomplishments.
- n. Obtain Headquarters approval before proceeding to next stage.

3. Stage Three - Build-Up (D-75)

- a. Create maximum antagonism to target regime.
- b. Fan passive will to resist.
- c. Apply internal and external economic pressure to create serious difficulties.
- d. In concert with majority of OAS members, bring diplomatic relations to near breaking-off point. *Y the recommendation*
- e. Demonstrate urgency by speeding military build-up of neighboring countries(not including Mexico).

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- f. Eliminate all military personnel and material support to target country.
  - g. Maximize propagation of government's-in-exile political program.
  - h. Accentuate para-military preparation.
  - i. Initiate passive sabotage program.
  - j. Assess accomplishments.
  - k. Obtain Headquarters approval before proceeding to next stage.
4. Stage Four - Critical Period (D-25)
- a. Economic strangulation evident.
  - b. Target internally divided.
  - c. Popular opposition at maximum.
  - d. Diplomatic relations with OAS on most tenuous basis.
  - e. Neighboring countries take defensive military dispositions on target border.
  - f. Intensive rumor campaign stimulating fear of war.
  - g. Government-in-exile claims support of people.
  - h. Para-military force in readiness.
  - i. Passive sabotage evident.
  - j. Assess accomplishments.
  - k. Obtain Headquarters approval before proceeding to next stage.
5. Stage Five - Showdown (D-5)
- a. Implement aggressive sabotage plan against key targets.
  - b. Government-in-exile claims capability to seize power by force and issues ultimatum to target regime to capitulate in order to avoid needless bloodshed.
  - c. populace is told to await target regime's reply and further instructions from government-in-exile.
  - d. If ultimatum fails, popular uprising begins; para-military force enters target country, proclaims authority, declares target regime null and void.
  - e. Secure position and restore order.

6. Stage Six - Consolidation (D + ?)
  - a. Roll-up of Communists and collaborators.
  - b. Dramatic initial proclamations and edicts.
  - c. Formation of government.
  - d. Announcement of long-range domestic and foreign policy.
  - e. OAS countries announce immediate recognition and support of new regime.
  - f. United States offers aid.
  - g. PBSUCCESS terminated.

D. Organization and Authority

1. Priority

- a. The "Top Operational Priority" given PBSUCCESS should be recognized on an Agency-wide basis until action is completed.

2. Authority and Responsibility

- a. Primary authority and responsibility should be vested in the Officer-in-charge, PBSUCCESS.
- b. This officer should be designated, in addition, "Special Deputy for PBSUCCESS, WHD".
- c. This designation would enable the Officer-in-charge, PBSUCCESS, to utilize assets within CIA for the fulfillment of Project objectives.
- d. The appointment and designation of the Officer-in-charge, PBSUCCESS, should follow approval of this program. The approved program would constitute his specific letter of instructions.

3. Staff Requirements

- a. The following staff requirements for PBSUCCESS are believed to be the minimum for adequate implementation and control of the Plan of Operations envisaged herein. Additional personnel may be required for varying periods. The personnel indicated below will largely be assigned on a TDY basis and may not be required for the entire duration of PBSUCCESS.
- b. The T/O outlined below is exclusive of WHD's current T/O and presupposes that Guatemala Station will participate fully in PBSUCCESS.

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## c. Project T/O

## (1) Project Headquarters [ ]

Officer-in-charge, GS-15  
 Deputy GS-11  
 FI Analyst/Reports Officer, GS-9  
 PP Operations Officer, GS-9  
 Communications Officer, GS-11  
 Accountable Disbursing Officer, GS-7  
 Admin/Logistics Officer, GS-7  
 Secy/Steno, GS-7  
 Steno, GS-5  
 Steno/Registry, GS-5

## (2) Project Field Staff

## (a) [ ]

PP Operations Officer, GS-12

## (b) [ ]

Chief of Station, GS-12  
 Operations Officer (FI/PP), GS-9  
 Communications Officer, GS-7  
 Secy/Steno, GS-5

## (c) [ ]

PM Operations Officer, GS-11  
 FI Operations Officer, GS-9  
 PP Operations Officer, GS-9

## (d) Guatemala [ ]

Communications Officer, GS-9

## (e) [ ]

FI Operations Officer, GS-13  
 PP Operations Officer, GS-9  
 Communications Officer, GS-11

## (f) [ ]

PM Operations Officer, GS-9 [ ]  
 Communications Officer, GS-7 [ ]

4. Headquarters Support

- a. In order to provide full support for the various services indicated below, it is believed that the following should be made available on a consultation and liaison basis.

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b. Advisory Group, to consist of

- (1) Department of State (also responsible for relations with Department of Defense)
- (2) Civilian Economic Warfare Panel
- (3) CIA Communications Adviser
- (4) CIA Technical Services Adviser
- (5) CIA Logistics Adviser

5. Headquarters Liaison and Coordination

a. In order to provide proper liaison and coordination between Headquarters and the field, two officers should be designated, as follows:

- b. WHD Liaison/Coordination - [ ]  
ID/P Liaison/Coordination - Mr. Hans Tofta

6. Fiscal Matters

a. Upon the approval of this program and the appointment of the Officer-in-charge, a financial statement should be presented to the latter indicating disbursements and obligations from the budgetary allocation as of that date.

b. Thereafter, all commitments and/or disbursements from the budgetary allocation will require the approval of the Officer-in-charge, PFSUCCESS.

c. The activation of this program should be accompanied by the immediate appointment of an Accountable Disbursing Officer for the handling and accounting of funds.

E. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the foregoing program be approved for the immediate implementation of Page One (as above).

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