



Routing Form

Doc. No.:

HGA-1042

Date:

13 MAY 1954

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Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments thereunder by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action completed and ready for filing. This cover-sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO:

FROM

DATE

D/P

C/EW

C/8M

C/PM

C/OR

[]

[] - make photostat & enter this material in our files

[] - Pass original to [], so rest an

This should aid materially in sabotage planning which thus far remains unknown on communications except broadcast stations. In reiteration it could be vital whether or not we denied the enemy means of communication - these, all commo, should start going out on D-12 hours until H+2. All commo should be kept. As soon as you have studied and formulated your plans in rough, pls review with me.

[]

How about defecting their comm. man

[] - look this over - I believe complete compliance this late date pretty tough job.

[]

Autostat copy retained [] (Hold)

EW files

Lincoln

VIA: COURIER
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. ~~1~~ 836A-1042

PBSUCCESS/RYPAT/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : LINCOLN

DATE MAY 7 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala *SMC/0013*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational - EEI 46
SPECIFIC— Telecommunications in Guatemala

Reference: LINC-2465

1. In connection with EEI 46, ESTIMATOR was given a general outline of desired information and agreed to collect it in connection with his normal work. There follows the information thus far obtained, the remaining data will follow by subsequent pouch.

2. ESTIMATOR advised that [] has an order for installation of 4 teletype machines, 2 in the Presidential Palace and 2 in the office of the Foreign Ministry. [] has the same order, making a total of 8 machines to be installed. ESTIMATOR arranged a trip to the Palace on the pretense of looking over the area where they desired the machines installed. He was able to spend approximately two hours in the communications area and on the basis of his observations, supplied the information in Attachments 1 and 2 (sketches of the communications section and radio room on the first floor of the Presidential Palace).

3. ESTIMATOR was told by the chief technician that all telecommunications lines are in a 250 pair cable and if installation of the teletype machines would blow this cable, all government communications would be cut off. ESTIMATOR was unable to learn the location of the cable but believes it enters the communications area from underground. He was told to devise some way to get access to this cable to determine the exact location and the best way to sever it.

4. The chief technician, named Mario (fnu), is the only person capable of repairing their equipment. He handles all maintenance of the equipment in the Palace, the cars, the finca and the "Ejercito". ESTIMATOR said that this person wants to work for [], stating that he wants to change jobs because every time the government is changed, they also change all the personnel and he wants something that offers more security. ESTIMATOR said that [] couldn't pay him the type of salary he is now making (\$225. per month). ESTIMATOR was told to obtain his full name, address, and as much biographical data as possible.

5. Presidential Palace. The apparatus for Guatemalan Government telecommunications is located on the first floor of the Palace at 4th Street and 6th Avenue.

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The entrance, a wooden double door with inside bar lock, is located on 6th Avenue. Directly in front of the entrance are two guards - located inside the double doors - (enlisted men who were unarmed on the occasion of ESTIMATOR's visit). Five transmitters, power control board, and the emergency power generator are all located in this area. In the patio behind the communications center is the parking area for 10 jeeps equipped with emergency power units. (See sketches for details of location.)

6. The Guatemalan government has a jeep Land Rover equipped with a 5,000 watt emergency power supply which is used when making trips as a power source for one of the Collins 32V or homebuilt (portable) transmitters. This jeep is used on week-end trips to the President's finca. When in Guatemala City, it is parked in the patio back of the communications center on the ground floor of the Palace.

7. They have another jeep set up something similar to the US Army Signal Corps communications jeep. This is used as a power supply with the Land Rover and is also taken on trips. ESTIMATOR was unable to obtain further details of this equipment. The jeep is also parked in the patio back of the communications center.

8. President ARBENZ has two cars (license and further identification not yet available) which are equipped with VHF frequency modulated telephone equipment. Each has two channels (128 megacycles and 132 megacycles - one of which is Guardia Civil, the other is for private communications of ARBENZ). ESTIMATOR could not learn which channel was for Guardia Civil. They also have two spare units of telephone equipment which could not be used because they arrived with the wrong frequencies.

9. At the President's finca, there is a transmitter and complete emergency power. ESTIMATOR was asked to obtain all possible details regarding the transmitter and power.

10. ARBENZ goes to the finca almost every weekend by car. He has 2 operators (PH/CW) at the Palace. One of these he takes with him to the finca. He also takes the Land Rover jeep with high frequency AM equipment and the two cars with high frequency FM equipment. Occasionally the only radio technician also accompanies them.

11. The Guatemalan government has 14 following: Collins 30k-4 two channel, 2 to 30 megacycle crystal controlled ground station transmitters, 300 watt CW, 200 watt phone. Eight of these are to be installed in Guatemala City and six are for outlying areas. The actual location of these transmitters has not been obtained but it is believed (by ESTIMATOR) that they are still in packing cases. Further details were requested.

12. The Guatemalan government has 3 complete units of Western Electric DIVATEL teletype receiving equipment which they are supplying to the three pro-government newspapers. These units are still in packing cases and were received in late April via AVIATECA from New Orleans.

13. With regard to Attachment 2, Two Collins 75A-2 receivers are permanently located (positions 2 and 3) in the Palace. There was also one spare (visible but not connected). There are 3 Collins 32V-3 transmitters (position 4), one permanently located and two spares for trips or replacement.

14. The Collins 300J is modified for use to contact ARBENZ' finca. It has two powers (500 and 1000 watts) but is normally used on 500.

15. The two homebuilt transmitters (position 7 and 8 on attachment # 2) are used mostly for emergency. Number 8 is a portable and is frequently taken on trips.

16. There is a 2-KW 2,000 watt emergency power plant in the patio which will supply power for lighting the radio room and operation of either one 32V transmitter and receiver or portable transmitter. It also supplies power and lighting for the wire going telegraph circuits.

17. [] has the following telecommunications contact between Guatemala and other countries:

- a) Guatemala to Mexico: Radiotelephone circuit (landline telegraph which follows the Pan American Highway from Guatemala City to the Mexican border.)
- b) Guatemala to Salvador: Radiotelegraph (landline telegraph from Guatemala City to San Cristobal).
- c) Guatemala to Honduras: Radiotelegraph.
- d) Guatemala to Nicaragua: Radiotelegraph.
- e) Guatemala to Costa Rica: Radiotelegraph.

Service to the above countries is available from 7 a.m. to 10-11 p.m.

18. Attachment # 3 lists [] installations (radio/telephone/telegraph) by call, frequency, power (auxiliary power) and location.

19. The information on TGW has not yet been received. ESTIMATOR stated that they have 2 RCA transmitters originally 10,000 watt but now operating on 2,500 watt and 1 homebuilt transmitter operating on 1,000 watts all located at Campo de Marte and in very bad shape. He was given LINCOLN's request on a priority basis and it is hoped that answers to this request and LINC-2451 will be forthcoming within the next day or so.

20. ESTIMATOR was also instructed to visit the office of the Foreign Ministry to look over the area where the teletypes are to be installed (and for us, obtain all available communications data in that establishment).

21. It is realized that this report, when compared with MERTON's outline, may leave much to be desired. LINCOLN should not feel that missing portions of the outline have been ignored. Rather, indulgence is asked to obtain this data.

22. Rains here for the past week have prevented getting out, locating and photographing the transmitter sites. This we hope to do if at all possible.

23. ESPERANCE is driving to GUALAN (via ZACAPA) probably 12 May and should be back about the 15th. LINCOLN will be advised of the results as soon as possible.

[]
Robert B. Riggs

Attachments: 3

- 1-sketch of communications center, Presidential Palace
- 2-sketch of radio room, Presidential Palace
- 3 [] communications stations

RBR/rbr
10 May 54

Distribution:

- 2-LINCOLN w/1 attachments
- 2-Wash w/o att
- 2-Files w/o att
- [] w/o att