

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

28 April 1954

2003

MEMORANDUM TO: J. J.

SUBJECT: Initiation of Discussion Between Honduras and Salvador

1. At your earliest opportunity, it is desired that you discuss with Pancho the situation regarding the Junta's use of facilities in Salvador and the need for immediate action in that direction. It is suggested that you inform Pancho that the group is of the opinion that Osorio is probably very receptive at this specific moment to any approach promising early action against Guatemala. Therefore, Pancho should be asked to speak to Val and attempt to arrange the earliest possible visit to President Osorio with the full support and backing of [ ] to discuss the matter of covert support between the two countries for the Junta's operations.

2. It is specifically desired that Val, with the full support of [ ], make his approach to Osorio on the basis of common interests, mentioning the group only if necessary to indicate solid support for Pancho. Val should be alerted to the possibility that Osorio is apprehensive, or at least should be apprehensive, over the threat imposed by the Communists in Guatemala as evidenced by the recent assassination attempt on President Somosa. Val should be encouraged to point out to Osorio the intensive Communist penetration of Honduras and the threat which hangs over that country, inferring that the same applies to Osorio. Furthermore, it is believed very pertinent for Val to point out that the Junta is a powerful and serious undertaking which is destined to be successful and therefore is of vital concern to Osorio not only for the benefits which he would derive, by such action, but by the implications which would prevail after the victory should Salvador refuse covert assistance.

3. You are authorized to inform Pancho that the group now has a representative in Salvador by the name of Memo who is in a position to backstop any arrangements laid on by Val and Osorio with the Junta's representative in Salvador. The nature and the extent of Memo's participation in these and subsequent negotiations must be left to your discretion in the field as the senior representative for the group.