

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE AS SANITIZED

AIR

2003

HGG-A-961

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

27 1954

LINCOLN

Chief of Station, Guatemala INFO: Chief, WHD
Security Matters KURIOT
Telephone in Station Office

1. As is known, the KURIOT representative who recently visited this station found that telephone no. 2537, which occupied space in the former Military Attaché's office, was found to be an open mike. This office is now occupied by this station and the telephone was removed.
2. On 22 April 1954, the Administrative Officer of the Embassy, Mr. William CALDERHEAD, noticed that his telephone, the only other telephone in this building which is a direct line by-passing the switchboard, was buzzing in a most unusual manner. He picked up the telephone but heard nothing. This morning, 23 April, he again heard the same buzzing sound, picked up the receiver and heard two male voices engaging in more or less the following dialogue:
"Have you checked 2537?"
"Yes, but it seems that the wires are cut because I ring and nothing happens."
"Call 2537 again."
"I have but still no answer. Something is wrong. I will send a man over to check the telephone."
3. Within 20-30 minutes from this time two individuals from the phone company arrived and asked if they could check 2537.
4. Mr. CALDERHEAD stated that the phone was in perfect condition. These individuals stated that they had checked from outside and the phone obviously was not working. CALDERHEAD then told them that the Embassy had moved some furniture, the phone was in the way and had been temporarily disconnected. He subsequently advised me of this matter.
5. The telephone has been repaired and the special condenser which had been installed and which converted this phone into an open mike was removed. The condenser was replaced by a normal one.

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

6. It was decided that we would give them an opportunity to try their hand again. Accordingly, I turned the instrument over to Mr. CALDERHEAD who will advise the telephone people that in replacing the instrument it was discovered that it is not functioning too well and that it would be appreciated if they would check the phone and then return it.
7. We plan on permitting them to replace the instrument which we will immediately remove, arrange the wires so that it will appear that the phone is working or attach a different instrument and we will then forward the "repaired" instrument to KURIOT for examination.
8. This instrument must be returned to this station with a minimum of delay.
9. Under no circumstances will we install this instrument without it being cleared by KURIOT and access by outsiders to this instrument will be completely prohibited.
10. Originally, I advised the KURIOT representative that I would have the private line removed but it has been found that private lines are at a great premium and that the advantages of retaining this line, even though on an inactive status, outweigh the loss of the line.
11. I would also appreciate any suggestions which KURIOT might have toward sending back a strong enough voltage to burn out or seriously damage the recording equipment which is hooked on to the other end of this line.

[]
Earle N. Bannister

23 April 1954

ENB/CMH

Distribution:

2-Linc
2-Wash
1-KURIOT
1-Files

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT