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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

April 26, 1954

Policy
file
[]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Notes of Talk With Ambassador Willhauer

Ambassador Willhauer came to see me on April 24 late in the afternoon for the purpose of passing on a number of ideas which he felt were relevant to PBSUCCESS. He pointed out particularly that he was not trying to assert himself into operational matters but considered that his ideas were merely worth passing on for consideration.

1. He was worried that some message might be sent to Honduras referring in some way to the story which he had told Washington regarding the use of the 400,000 Honduran arms purchase as a cover story. If such a message were sent, he felt that it might be confusing to the recipients. I told him not to worry since we have already discussed this matter and decided that we would not refer to the arms purchase ourselves at all but would leave it for him to use in any way that he saw fit.

2. He urged again that the flights be made at night. He said that it would be "a cinch" to bring a flight into the field at night, particularly if flare pots were lit which would be done. The advantage of night flights in his opinion would be that they would be noticed by practically nobody. The tower is closed from 6:00pm to 6:00am but the field is used a good deal at night for practice Air Force maneuvers of one sort and another. Moreover since there are no lights other than the flare pots at night, the fact that planes are unmarked would probably not be noticed.

3. Three Americans in Honduras need to be considered in connection with the flights. []

[] The first and second are substantially aware of all flights coming into the air field, particularly those which are thought to have anything to do with the Air Force. Willhauer stated that he mentioned to [] [] before the flights that have taken place the fact that there were some flights coming in which had been mentioned to him and in which the United States had no interest. Consequently he told [] that if he heard anything about them not to worry or bother to look into it. [] according to Willhauer, is a very able individual and consequently is likely to raise a number of embarrassing questions. His suggestion was that it might be useful if possible to have him somewhere else for a while or to authorize Willhauer to tell him at least as much as he has told [] [] This is a point which [] might look into when he is next in Honduras. [] is involved only because there is a U. S. Army unit presumably there [] engineers which is rebuilding the runways.

Consequently

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Consequently reports might come to [] about arrivals and departures of unmarked aircraft. This one does not seem too serious to me but it would do no harm to have [] check it along with the other points.

4. Willhauer feels that [] can be bought. There may be something to this since if he is actually working for the other side as is suspected, he has undoubtedly been bought by them. At any rate, it is worth further study.

5. [] even though he seems pretty firm at the moment, should perhaps be sewed up by having some money passed to him in some approvable way in case it was necessary to use this in the future.

6. Willhauer felt very strongly that [] should be given some sort of a pat on the back for the tremendous amount of work that he has been doing. This is easy enough to arrange and it would seem to be worth doing. Willhauer said it would not do any harm to do the same for [] even though he has not been down very long and obviously has not done anything like the amount of work that [] has.

7. In connection with [] Willhauer pointed out that he has [] which he believes is undoubtedly blown at this point. He had no suggestions as to how to solve the problem but did feel that if there were any way to produce some more transportation, it would be extremely helpful.

8. Willhauer states that he is planning in the near future to bring his own DC3 to Honduras for personal use. Although big he could have a crew consisting of pilot, co-pilot, radio operator and crew chief. If he should do this, he suggested that we might like to use at least the co-pilot and radio operator slots for our people, and of course the plane cannot be used for any operational purposes. In return for this Willhauer suggested that we might help him (presumably financially) to put the plane into shape which he says would not require very much work and carry the maintenance while it is at Honduras. The plane is now in California but could be put in shape very fast and brought down soon if desired. I would not think this suggestion to be a very good one from our point of view though it might be useful to know about it in case there was an emergency need for getting someone into Honduras and no other method was available.

9. He mentioned [] [] who he says he knows quite well. [] apparently has a good DC3 with a good crew, flies around the area a lot including fairly regular trips into Honduras. On these trips [] often brings supplies of one sort or another, e.g., movie projectors so that

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for incidental items of one sort or another, this is a possible method of transportation. He also suggested that since [] is a great fisherman, it could easily be arranged for him to come down so that Willhauer and he could take [] fishing.

10. Although State refused to invite [] to Washington for discussions of the arms pact, Willhauer still felt that some sort of a letter from either State or Defense would be very useful even if it only made a suggestion to the effect that if [] would like to come, proper officials would be glad to have discussions with him.

11. With respect to [] request for someone to help on the alleged sabotage of Honduran aircraft, Willhauer felt that it would be extremely useful to produce somebody or at least show that an effort is being made. He said that this point is one which feels very strongly about and that consequently some help would produce in his opinion a lot of good will. As incidental information, Willhauer said that [] suspects a Honduran Air Force Lieutenant. At the moment he has no proof except that the Lieutenant is spending much more money than his normal income would justify.

12. Finally Willhauer mentioned again the possible use of commercial aircraft for the flights such as [] or even marking our planes with [] and [] markings. He also mentioned the possibility of air dropping materiel in case something happens to prevent landings. He said either an AFM-2 device, a number of possible DCs could in his opinion be effectively used.

C. Tracy Barnes

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE : 26 APRIL 54

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ROUTING	
1	4
2	5
3	6

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : GUATEMALA

ACTION: WH (1-3)

INFO : DCI (4), D/DCI (5), DD/P (L) (6), A/DD/P/P (7)

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GUAT 418 (IN 40775)

2317Z 26 APR 54

ROUTINE

TO: SLINC

INFO: DIR []

PRECEDENCE
CITE: SQUAT

RE: GUAT 399 (IN 39767)

PBSUCCESS RYBAT

1. RODOLFO LOPEZ DURAN, EXILED COMMIE OR LEFTIST HONDURAN RESIDING WSBURNT AND REPORTER CGTG PAPER UNIDAD, 22 APRIL STATED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT PLANNED WSHOOF'S POSSIBLY PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

2. CLAIMS MOVEMENT HAS SUFFICIENT MONEY, ARMS, SUPPORT OF WSBURNT AND COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENTS BUT SPECIAL EFFORTS TAKEN TO AVOID REVELATION PLANS.

3. SIMILAR MOVEMENT PROJECTED FOR DTFROGS. INTIMATED ATTEMPT AGAINST STORAX RELATED TO PENDING MOVEMENT WSHOOF'S AND DTFROGS. [] FROM UNKNOWN SOURCE, F-3.

END OF MESSAGE

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