

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Guat. Exiles for

2003
14. Ex-President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman. Numerous operations were conducted in an effort to further discredit Arbenz and his pro-Communist government. His departure from Mexico for Switzerland was strongly exploited throughout WHD and in selected European countries. Headquarters guidance instructed addressee stations to portray his travel as an attempt to avoid extradition and subsequent punishment for the atrocities committed by his henchmen and for the theft of public funds. Guatemalan diplomatic representatives in various countries were inspired to make derogatory statements coincide with his arrival in Europe; press articles speculated that he was enroute to an Iron Curtain refuge; other inspired articles, leaflets, and posters portrayed him as a traitor and fugitive who had deserted his Communist comrades in Mexico.

15. Other Guatemalan Exiles. (Para. 14 in original draft; change to 15) (Add the following to original draft). The travel of Carlos Manuel Pellecer and Ricardo Ramirez de Leon from Argentina to Czechoslovakia was exploited in several key WH countries by means of press articles and leaflets. Selected stations were instructed to play up their travel as indisputable evidence of a link between the Arbenz regime and the Communist conspiracy. The stations were also asked to propagate the idea that these criminals should be denied reentry into the Western Hemisphere because they would (after training behind the curtain) engage in renewed subversive activity and promote internal strife in the area. (Para 15 in original draft is adequately covered in paras. 14 and 15, above, and should be deleted)

*Comments prepared for Branch III
to include in a report to DCI
re F-1 + PP exploitation of
the Guatemalan situation since July 1954.*

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6 April 55
1600

[]
DCWH, conferring just now with [], says by all means you should write something along the lines indicated under para. 15 of the 1 April DRAFT, and by all means include something about attempts to harass ARBENZ.

If you want to incorporate it into para 14, or to add something to para 14, I suggest you work it all out with [] and/or the Mexi Desk.

[] will probably be in charge when the final draft is typed up. I don't know anything about WH/Mexico operations during the Rosenberg trial nor about harassment-of-Arbenz operations, so suggest I be left out of further work on paras. 14 and 15.

Suggest you make your draft double-space, DATE IT 6 APRIL, and retain the paragraph numbers 14 and/or 15, so the typists can find their way around.

cc: []

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