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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

6-1583

2003 21 July 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: EA/DCI

SUBJECT : Exploitation of Guatemalan Documents

Tracy Barnes has asked me to inform DCI of the following:

1. At a meeting yesterday between State, USIA and CIA the following general plan was accepted for the inter-Agency exploitation of the more than 100,000 Communist Party, trade union and Arbenz government documents which became available when Arbenz capitulated:

a. The three Agencies will staff a joint task force which will pool the documents and exploit them for each others interests. State will provide a minimum of two men (possibly three), USIA will provide one, and CIA will provide three, plus the chairman.

b. The group will operate generally as a federal republic, and under the chairmanship of CIA. CIA besides will reserve two specific authorities: (a) exclusive control of relations with local Guatemalan authorities who have technical custody of the documents, and (b) veto power over the use by State or USIA of information which can be used most effectively by clandestine operations.

2. The documents are now and will remain in Guatemala City, and are under the control of the Castillo Armas government. Both CIA and USIA intend to use the documents in Guatemala City and in the rest of Latin America for the most part, reproducing for Washington only those which need be kept as records. State, on the other hand, intends only to select and photograph in Guatemala City, and to ship its photographed selections to Washington for research here. State has agreed in principle that CIA shall have record copies of its selections.

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3. The sense of the above agreement seems to meet Ambassador Peurifoy's insistence that the Agencies primarily concerned coordinate their exploitation.

4. Present at the meeting, besides myself who called it, were:

WH Division - Col. King

FI/Staff C - Mr. []
Mr. []

State Dept. - Mr. [] Director of OIR
Mr. Myron Burgin, Chief, DRA

USIA - Mr. Frank Oram, Deputy Chief, ARA
Mr. Hal Urist, PAO Guatemala

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