

Air  
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

~~SECRET~~  
2003

[ ]-2627

Chief of Station, Guatemala City  
[ ]

INFO: Chief, WH  
Chief, Lincoln

Communist Suspect

Jorge Francisco BERTHOVIN aka: Jorge Francisco ARANA

Reference- [ ]-884

1. Subject, a Guatemalan citizen born 4 October 1932, arrived in Panama 22 April 1953 from San Jose, Costa Rica, and departed 4 May 1953, for Guayaquil, Ecuador. During that time he is reported to have passed bad checks in excess of \$500.00. He returned to Panama sometime in 1954 and apparently has straightened out the bad check matter.
2. He went to the American Embassy during the latter part of May 1954, and stated that he had been a member of the Communist Party in Guatemala, knew of Communist activity in Panama at this time and wished to cooperate with the United States. [ ]
3. BERTHOVIN presents a good appearance with a pleasant manner somewhat too friendly. He refused to allow himself to be pinned down on any points concerning specific information on Guatemalan Communism or Communists in Panama, stated that he was receiving mail through the Guatemalan Embassy, was friendly with the Guatemalan Consul, and in a position to gather valuable data. He pointed out that since he had two years of military school he was well versed in such matters. He was living with friends who had no phone and could not be contacted without the arranging of a prior meeting place. He wanted to be guaranteed escape from Panama in the event he should get in trouble. He claimed to be a nephew of the murdered Col. ARANA, and wished to get even with the Communists for murdering his uncle. The relationship is through his father whose last name is ARANA.
4. [ ] arranged to meet subject the following week in Panama City. The appointment was not kept by either party.
5. On 18 June, subject revisited the Embassy and asked to see [ ] He was told [ ] was out of town. He stated that he had not kept his appointment since he had obtained a job which prevented his being at the designated spot at the agreed upon time. The Embassy, following expressed wishes [ ] was not inclined to discuss matters with him.

~~SECRET~~

6. On 24 June, [ ] a Panamanian merchant well known to [ ] stated that BERTHOUMIN had been in his store, given [ ] as a reference, and made a long distance telephone call to Guatemala City which he had not paid for. He apparently borrowed a few dollars, in addition to the phone call. [ ] and his manager that the subject was no friend of [ ] he was living at the Guatemalan Embassy and possibly was working for the Guatemalan Embassy. (This information was based on an ODFAL report concerning a (from) ARANA who apparently is identical with the Subject.) It should be noted that [ ] is active in anti-Communist activities in Panama.
7. On 1 July 1954, subject returned to [ ] the store operated by [ ] and asked the manager for a few dollars. He was politely refused and told that he should watch his step as the Panamanian Government was getting ready to clamp down on Guatemalan Communists. Subject left the store and according to the manager was visibly upset by the news.
8. BERTHOUMIN impressed [ ] as a enterprising young man who expected to simplify living in Panama by cashing in on the Guatemalan situation. The matter, could, of course, be more serious.

[ ]

13 July 1954

## Distributions:

1	Guat
3	Wash
2	Line

~~SECRET~~