

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

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MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT : Intelligence Information Provided to Department of State
Concerning Guatemala

1. Intelligence information concerning Guatemala has been supplied regularly to the Department of State in the form of cabled Preliminary disseminations (PD's). Since the middle of May, memoranda have been passed informally to certain members of the Department containing both the information currently being disseminated as well as supplementary material of operational interest to those officials familiar with PBSUCCESS objectives and brought partly into PBSUCCESS operations.

2. No advance information concerning Guatemalan intentions to take her case to the United Nations was reported by CIA agents in Guatemala.

3. However, knowledge of Guatemalan plans⁷ which counted on some form of arbitration to settle the Guatemalan situation before the expected uprising led by CASTILLO Armas occurred was disseminated in the following two reports:

a. PD 285 of 10 June contained F-3 information that Foreign Minister TORIELLO had said there was a "master card" which the Guatemalans intended to play by requesting that the United States and Guatemala sit down as litigants at an OAS meeting in which the rest of the members would act as arbiters.

b. PD 296 of 10 June contained B-2 information that Minister of Economy FANJUL planned to advise ARBENZ to seek a talk with President EISENHOWER in which the Guatemalans would agree to get rid of the Communists in return for economic concessions from the United States.

4. Information was provided to the Department of State on 20 and 21 June for use in countering certain false statements made by the Guatemalan Government. The two allegations were that bombs had been dropped on Guatemala City on 18 and 19 June, and that Guatemala was being invaded by foreign forces without popular support. The first point was refuted by material which showed that eyewitnesses had emphatically stated that the aircraft of the revolutionary forces dropped only leaflets and only fired bursts into the clouds, and that the house of Col. MENDOZA in Guatemala City allegedly bombed was in fact set on fire by unknown persons in Guatemala City. The second point was refuted by citing disaffection in the Guatemalan Air Force as well as Radio Liberacion broadcasts stating that the revolutionary forces were "98% Guatemalan." Additional material was cited to counteract ARBENZ claim on 19 June that there "was no reign of terror in Guatemala." Specific instances were the deaths by

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torture of Gabriel MARTINEZ del Rosal, Perfecto VILLEGAS, and the owner of the KAUFMAN finca,

5. USIS was provided with daily summaries of information from Agency, State, press, and monitored radio reports during the period 22 June to 29 June for their use.

6. Additional information which the Department of State received in PD's concerned the following general subjects:

a. Dissatisfaction of army leaders with Communist nature of ARBENZ regime:

PD 065 - 21 May - Reaction of Guatemalan Army Officers to Arms Shipment to Guatemala

"Incident dramatically demonstrated close ties of Guat and Soviet Governments..."

PD 332 - 13 June - Army Request that Arbenz Change Present Policy

"ARBENZ stated the Army trying to persuade him to get rid of Communists and change policy, but he said present policy was his and unchangeable with or without Communists..."

PD 333 - 14 June - Army Request that Arbenz Change Policy or be Overthrown

"Great majority (allegedly 95%) have indicated to President ARBENZ their opposition to continued gov't alliance with Communists..."

PD 391 - 17 June - Activities of Guatemalan Civilian and Military Leaders

"Unidentified cabinet minister has been conferring with Col. Jose Angel SANCHEZ, Minister of Defense, about measures to take against ARBENZ in view of apparent unwillingness ARBENZ to modify his stand on Communism..."

b. Terroristic Actions of Guatemalan Government Suppressing Anti-Communists

PD 360 - 16 - June - Guatemalan Government Activities against Anti-Communists

"Since 12 June, 26 persons have disappeared in Tiquisate... 17 persons have been arrested in Mazatenan o. Arrests throughout Guatemala run into the hundreds.

PD 374 - 16 June - Dropping of Arms, Ammunition from Unidentified Aircraft in Vicinity Tiquisate, Guatemala

"Two trunkloads of prisoners taken by Guardia Civil to Escuintla from Tiquisate. Total number of prisoners was 87..."

PD 389 - 18 June - Unrest in Guatemala

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"Unofficial estimates that 480 persons arrested in Guatemala City...Two hundred new agents being employed by Guardia Civil (note that Government has made no comment on number of persons arrested)...Non-Guatemalan Communists engaged in tortures and murders of prisoners..."

PD 393 - 18 June - Attempt of Guillermo TORIELLO to Resign

"TORIELLO tried to resign given as reason his disagreement with mass arrests and tortures being conducted by Guatemalan Government..."

PD 402 - 18 June - Meeting of Guatemalan Cabinet on Night 16 June

"ARBENZ asked for law authorizing any anti-Communist who was arrested to be shot in three days..."

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