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Operations Thission

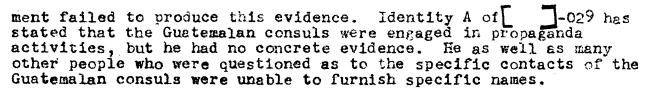
The following information is being set forth to present an idea of the situation encountered in Honduras in an effort to obtain documentary evidence that the Guatemalan Government was connected with t general strike in Honduras.

- l. Many United Fruit Company officials, Government officials and private individuals all concurred in one statement: "The Guatemalans were behind the strike". When questioned as to the evidence upon which they based this statement their replies usually indicated that they had reached the conclusion because: a) the development of the strike of the UFCO workers followed the same pattern as strikes in Guatemala, b) the demands of the strikers were phrased in almost identical language as demands made upon the UFCO in Guatemala, and/or c) Honduran workers did not have the experience and knowledge to organize and carry out a general strike without foreign guidance. In other words, most of those who concluded that the Guatemalans were behind the strike reached this conclusion on the basis of analysis rather than as a result of knowledge of the specific activities of Guatemalan agents.



- 5. Identity A has repeatedly made the statement that the strike was organized and directed by Honduran Communists who had studied in Guatemala and Europe. He pointed out that these Honduran Communists had been trained for their job and they did not need outside direction although three members of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo were in-Honduras during the early stages of the strike to serve as advisors. Further, any advice or instructions the Honduran Communists received were delivered orally by Communists who had travelled overland from Guatemala to Honduras, and funds they received were in cash and delivered by courier.
- 6. One difficulty which was encountered constantly was with regard to stories which had been repeated frequently and incorrectly. One specific example is with regard to stories circulating about the illegal landing of a Guatemalan plane at Puerto Cortés on 1 May 1954 120). Many stories were circulating that Government authorities had seized envelopes from that plane as well as a map showing all airfields and UFCO for these documents did not produce them. The UFCO official who was present when the plane landed at Puerto Cortes was interviewed. He stated that he believed, in view of the circumstances, that documents had been taken from the plane by Identity A who with the Minister of Government had searched the plane. The UFCO official admitted that he had not seen any documents taken from the plane, and he had not been told they were taken from the plane. The Army Commander at Puerto Cortés Identity A emphatically that no documents had been taken from the plane. Identity A emphatically denied that he had taken any documents from the plane. He stated that while he had observed a map on the plane showing to seize them.
- 7. Identity A did state that when the pilot and air attaché in the Guatemalan plane were behind held incommunicado at the airport in Puerto Cortes the Guatemalan consul arrived at the airport with lunch for the pilot and the Air Attaché. According to Identity A, the Guatemalan pilot and Air Attaché had no means of contacting the Guatemalar consul from the airport and therefore "the consul may be presumed to have had advance knowledge of the arrival of the plane and thus must have been engaged in clandestine activities"!! Identity A stated that this was one of the reasons the Guatemalan consul was declared persona non grata.
- 8. Constant efforts have been made to determine upon what vidence the Guatemalan consuls in San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortes were leclared persona non grata. Official inquiries of the Honduran Govern-





- 9. It is believed that the attachment to 329 will be of interest in connection with the legal proceedings followed in subversive cases in Honduras. A competent Government official makes a denouncement to the appropriate judge, describing the charges against a subject and naming witnesses who can testify to the facts. Declarations of the witnesses are not required at the time the denouncement is made. It is then up to the judge to obtain the testimony of witnesses before the case is tried. In many instances, it has been found that there are denouncements of Communist activities of certain individuals, but there are no actual signed statements to support the charges. It is believed that the case of the Guatemalan consuls may have been similar in that there were probably charges against them but no actual evidence.
- 10. Identity A has stated that he is certain the Guatemalan Ambassador in Tegucigalpa assisted the strikers financially and spread Communist propaganda, but he has no evidence to support this statement.
- ll. All investigation as to tangible leads to Guatemalan and Communist influence in the strike pointed to Identity A as the person who would be most likely to have evidence. Identity A's principal source has been Identity B of \[\begin{align*} 029. \]
- 13. A brief review made on 6 July 1954 of the files of CALLIGERIS on Communist activities in Honduras revealed that those files contained many leads to suspected Guatemalan agents in Honduras. If those files would have been available at the time the mission was initiated, investigation of the leads contained unerein might have led to the evidence desired. It is believed that those files should be studied and information extracted for future operational assistance in Honduras.

Earl G. Knox

3-Headquarters 1-Lincoln 2-Files