

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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TO: [ ]

Rumors have been seeping into Guatemala City to the effect that the strength of the anti-Communist forces is increasing by hundreds as volunteers coming forward from each town and farm that is liberated.

22 June 1954

1. The wife of Arbenz is in El Salvador.
2. Federico Kong, spokesman for recently arrived Guatemalan refugees, has protested to the UN against the barbaric methods of the Arbenz government and requested UN intervention. His statement was given to INS.
3. The First and Second Companies of the Guardia del Honor departed on 19 June for Zacapa. In addition, 81 mm mortar and 50 cal MD units from the Base Militar left for Zacapa. Juan Bolencos is in command of all field units.
4. Three more Guatemalan Air Force pilots have defected and are in El Salvador Embassy; another pilot is in the Panama Embassy. These pilots are quoted as stating that the Air Force is 90% bitterly hostile to Arbenz and the regime.
5. The Puerto Barrios army command has advised the Capitol that it has enough men but insufficient arms to defend the city.

Paris AFP 6/22

Havana, Cuba

Minister without Portfolio of Ernesto de la Fe said here he was in favor of immediate recognition of Armas. Said, in taking this "historic decision," Castillo had "saved our continent from tragic hours." "Our continent cannot permit Soviet Communism to transfer Guat into new Korea."

London Reuters Radioteletype in English to New York 1200 6/22

There appeared to be little response to the government's call for cars and taxis to carry government forces to the battle zone--the way Paris taxis carried French soldiers to the World War I Battle of the Marne.

Guatemala City (Official) Home Service Oh40 6/22

To the Soviet Union Delegate to the United Nations

We respectfully congratulate you for the defense of the rights of our people and of the other peoples who are the victims of imperialist

aggression. (Signed) General Confederation of Guatemalan Workers and Guatemalan Countrypeople's Confederation.

Sao Paulo in Portuguese to Brazil 0130 6/22

(Excerpt) Rio--Brazilian Foreign Minister Vincente Rao stated on June 21 that the Guatemalan situation is strictly an American problem and that it should be settled by the American nations.

In a statement supporting the warning given the Soviet Union on June 20 not to meddle in the problems of the Western Hemisphere, the Brazilian Foreign Minister stated his country considered the case presented by Guatemala to the Security Council had been nullified by the vote of the Soviet delegate.

San Salvador in Spanish to El Salvador 1120 6/22

Alvarado Lir, a Guatemalan Lawyer who lives in the house of Castillo Armas in Tegu, reports that there was dissension among some of the Guatemalan exiles, pointing out that Manuel Orellanes who has set himself up as information chief, actually does not hold the post.

Alvarado also announced that the rebel headquarters were established at the ruins of Mayas de Copen, within Guatemalan territory. He explained that these ruins are located near the Honduran-Guatemalan border, and could constitute a strong fort because of their peculiar rock construction.

YSU San Salvador in Spanish to El Salvador 1215 6/22

Information received in San Salvador reveal that the Salvadoran Government has sent 2,000 soldiers to the Guatemalan border in an effort to keep Arbens' troops from using the main highway to Honduras, which runs through Salvadoran territory. In any case, there is no indication that Arbens plans to send troops against Honduras, and the Salvadoran protective action seems to be more precautionary in nature.

Guatemala City (Official) Home Service 0322 6/22

(Text) Attention, members of the Union of Workers in Air Services and Affiliates. All of you, without fail, must be at the airport tomorrow at 9 a.m.

Paris AFP Radioteletype in French to the Americans 2303 6/21

(Text) In another message addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council and made public together with the message of Guatemala, Mr. Valensuela, Foreign Affairs Minister of Honduras, denies that any plane based in Honduras had at any time flown over Guat. Loyal to its good neighbor policy, Mr. Valensuela's message goes on, Honduras did not authorize the forces which have invaded Guat to organize themselves on her territory.

Mr. Valensuela said that he is in a position to prove that all the accusations of intervention which have been made against Honduras are false.

Delivered to Mr. [ ] 22 June 1954