

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

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ITEMS OF INFORMATION OF POSSIBLE INTEREST
TO OR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
USIA IN RELEASES.

Orig. to
Mr. []

The following is a series of selected items of information which we have received from our sources in Guatemala and elsewhere, which would appear suitable for use in the form of releases by State and/or USIA. No effort is made to provide a precise evaluation of each item of information given, but in general it may be said that most of the material has been received in such a way as to lead us to believe that it is probably true. In some cases it is based upon direct eye-witness observation or the monitoring of certain broadcasting stations, etc., and wherever this is the case it will be so indicated. Under no circumstances should any of this material be attributed to CIA or any CIA sources. The times given are Guatemalan or Central American times.

1. As of 10:00 P. M. June 18 the following was reported from Guatemala City: Mattresses and other bulky materials were observed being put in windows and on the roof of the main Guardia Civil building. Tension was described as mounting and it was widely rumored that there might be an outbreak of violence at any moment. Tension between the Guardia Civil and the Army was being manifested. Control over city electricity was removed from the Guardia Civil by the Army.
2. It was reported on the night of June 18 that the radio of the US Air Force Mission in Guatemala, as well as that of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey, has been shut down by the Guatemalan Government.
3. Whereas a report was received yesterday that many people were leaving Guatemala City in haste, employing automobiles, carts and other forms of transportation, it was reported that as of 2:00 19 June, the city appeared to be calm and rather relaxed. People were out on the streets as usual. Stores were closed. A plane was reported to have come over at 7:45 in the morning.
4. With regard to the Guatemalan governmental claims of bombing, and more specifically to the claims of yesterday that bombs fell on the house of Colonel Mendosa and the house of his mother, it was reported that as of about 10:00 P. M. last night no bombs had fallen on

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

either Colonel Mendoza's house or the house of his mother. There was a report of a house burning which might have been that of Colonel Mendoza's mother, but it was clear that it was not hit from the air. (It is believed this report has been further confirmed by an Embassy report stating that neighbors had observed the house being set on fire, possibly by Guatemalan governmental agents.) There are further eye-witness accounts that there have been no bombs at all in Guatemalan cities. Moreover there is no evidence of any bombing anywhere in Guatemala. The claim of Toriello that oil storage facilities were bombed in San Jose is not substantiated by any evidence. In fact two governmental planes which were sent off to investigate the rumor of bombing in San Jose did not return with any evidence of aerial bombing, although it is reported that one of these planes cracked up. (This may be the same as the crash reported in the Guatemalan Government communique of today which stated that a Government fighter plane had crashed last night, killing the pilot.)

5. Observers in Guatemala City reported that when unidentified aircraft flew over Guatemala City on June 18th the only things dropped were leaflets. These planes were reported to have been fired on from the ground but they did not return the fire. Guatemalan Government sources have reported that the planes strafed private residences, government buildings and barracks and bombed the headquarters of the armed forces and the First Infantry Regiment. Eye-witness observers from Guatemala City have denied any bombing at all and have stated that there was no air-to-ground fire of any sort.
6. A radio-monitoring report of today's date states that Radio Liberacion at 7:03 this morning gave an interview with Colonel Rodolfo Mendosa, the head of the liberation Air Force. Colonel Mendosa stated that the planes which flew over Guatemala City yesterday carried no bombs and only fired their guns into the clouds. Another monitoring report quotes Radio Liberacion as stating that the people of Guatemala have no need to fear these planes.
7. A report was received today from El Salvador to the effect that in the event of a revolt in Guatemala, the Salvadoran Government would move troops to the border and possibly declare martial law; and would also set up a stockade and confine all Communists and other fugitives from the Arbenz

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -

regime. (This report is said to come from Salvadoran official sources, and although its exact accuracy is not known, it is deemed highly significant as an indication regarding the general position of El Salvador. The confinement of refugees is not a usual practice in Latin America.)

8. It is reported that a land-slide has blocked the road between Guatemala City and Puerto Barrios, although it is being surmised that this may have been an "induced" land-slide.
9. As of 2:30 today, it was reported from Guatemala City that the Army has taken action either in support of the liberating forces of Col. Armas or against the Arbens regime; on the other hand, considerable repressive and punitive activity is being engaged in by civilian elements believed to be "Peoples' Militia" and by the police forces of the regime. It is reliably reported that the government and the Communists are stepping up their terroristic activities and are arresting and killing anti-Communists. Martinez Del Rosal is reported to have been shot through the head. Profecto Villegas is reported to have been shot, then run over by a truck. Kaufman is reported to have had his feet burned off before he died.
10. As of four days ago there were several reports of groups of armed civilians operating under governmental direction. These reports take particular significance from statements made in early June by Communist labor leaders and Communist governmental officials, to the effect that they were preparing to arm civilians and "create a Workers' Army."
11. It was reported on 18 June that Arbens had sent his mother out of the country on the night of 15 June.
12. There have been reports that the Guatemalan Government has infiltrated Communists and agents provocateurs among the groups of individuals seeking to obtain asylum in the embassies of El Salvador, Costa Rica and other neighboring nations.
13. On 18 June it was reported that the Guatemalan Government had requisitioned a seven-story building under construction in Guatemala City for use as storage for new arms. The building in question is near the cuartel.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 4 -

14. It is believed that important reference should be made to the hasty calling-off by the Guatemalan Government of the very large and widely-publicized rally which was supposed to demonstrate wide-spread popular support for the regime. The first word put out by the Government came late yesterday when it was stated simply that the demonstration had been called off because of "rain." After having had a chance to collect its thoughts over the night, the Guatemalan Home Service announced today that the organizing committee for the great demonstration had decided, in view of the fact that there were attempts to confuse the public by spreading false rumors, to make a more lengthy statement. This statement emphasized very heavy rainfall and promised that the demonstration would be held in the near future "at whatever price must be paid." The Government announcement called on the public to be calm and asked them not to pay attention to false rumors which were being spread. However, there are reports from Guatemala today and yesterday that the Government's hasty reversal of plans for its much-publicized and highly-touted demonstration resulted from one or both of two things; viz.: (a) That the Government suddenly panicked and lost confidence, fearing that a large demonstration within the city at this time might contain so many disaffected elements as to result in a bogotaza, i. e. the turning of the mob against the Government, etc.; (b) That it had already become evident by late yesterday that the demonstration would be a conspicuous flop -- a fracaso.

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