

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. []

SUBJECT:

Suggested Lines for [] Stations on
Guatemalan Situation.

1. Here are some lines which your outlets should be playing -- the sooner the better. It may be that you are already on top of some of these, but if you are not, let's get out a cable soonest to the appropriate field stations.

2. The first of these is an idea that our boss had and which I wish you would see what you could do about today. He would like to have the story circulated in the coffee-producing countries in Central and South America to the effect that one of the real reasons (which has escaped notice thus far) for the fall-off in coffee consumption within the U.S. and certain other countries has been the concern on the part of the housewives that by buying coffee they would some how be helping the Communist cause in Guatemala. The housewives are, of course, confused and do not realize how little of the total coffee produced in the world comes from Guatemala. They only know that coffee comes from Guatemala and that Guatemala is run by a Communist clique who they believe are the front office representatives of Moscow headquarters. There is no telling how much damage the continuation of this impression can do the coffee trade in general. Public opinion in the U.S. and other free countries cannot be controlled or turned around over night, short of some spectacular change in the situation which gives rise to public opinion.

3. It is extremely important that we tag Toriello with a number of palpable lies which he has seen fit to utter in the past 48 hours. It is abundantly evident that he is placing his emphasis and his hope for success in his UN approach upon the assertions that Guatemala is being a. bombed from the outside, b. invaded from the outside. Moreover it is just as clear that the Communist worldwide propaganda mechanism is echoing these precise themes, and quite regrettably that much of the free world press, including our own, is doing the same (see today's Washington Post headlines and news treatment by contrast with today's New York Times headlines and news treatment).

~~SECRET~~

4. Now Toriello has declared that Guatemala has been bombed. In point of fact it has not been bombed. Toriello has gone so far out on a limb as to state that a specific house in Guatemala City viz. the house of Mendoza (or Mendoza's mother). We have it in our own communications and also in an embassy message that according to eyewitness accounts this house was set on fire, presumably by the Guatemalan Government, and that there is absolutely no evidence of any bombing or bomb damage. I have arranged for this to appear in the U.S. press and on the U.S. radio, and I think it should be safe for you to play it because of its wide dissemination. Toriello has also claimed that oil storage facilities have been bombed. This is contrary to the fact and should be billed as a lie, connected with the Mendoza house bombing fabrication and concoction.

5. Also of considerable significance is the fact that the much-publicized and widely-heralded mass demonstration of support for the government was suddenly called off "on account of rain." There is much juice to be rung out of this development. You should state or strongly infer that the real reason for the cancellation is that the whole affair was sure to have been a total flop because of a conspicuous lack of any public endorsement or enthusiasm. The real reason the government hastily called off this major demonstration was that they suddenly realized that no amount of pressure or recruitment would prevail upon the Guatemalan people to turn out in/pro-government demonstration.

6. Please look through the traffic, both our own and States and also the news ticker and FBIS material for other lies and exaggerations which can be attributed to Toriello and the regime, but do not hold up on any of the foregoing in order to get off your first cable.

7. As regards Toriello's invasion thesis, you must emphasize that this is an internal revolt of the people possibly aided and supported by the hundreds of Guatemalan anti-Communist refugees who have been naturally driven from their country by the Communist terror and who are only/most anxious to return.

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)