

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

AIR

2003

HUL-A- 985

~~SECRET~~
~~PBSUCCESS/RIBAT~~

13 JAN 1954

Acting Chief of Station, []

LINCOLN

INFO: Acting Chief of Station,
Guatemala
PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

KUGOWN
Transmittal of material

REF: [] -048

1. Reference dispatch treats 3 related, but separate matters: (a) sending KUGOWN material -- bulk -- to Guatemala station, (b) lateral communications, (c) transmittal of personal agents' mail.
2. Insofar as (a) above is concerned, it should be obvious to you right now -- even though we understand it might not have been obvious at the time reference dispatch was written -- that NO such material must be pouched, until further notice. Contact with the ESSENCE net has been interrupted as a result of continuing arrests etc. Even storing such material at the station office is getting increasingly insecure. There must be absolutely no such shipment any more, until expressly authorized by LINCOLN. In the meantime, as we have stressed in our letters to Francis P. HEBARTY again and again, every effort must be made to transport KUGOWN materials into WSBURNT directly, by smuggling etc. and not by pouch. Apart from everything else, pouching does not solve the problem of ultimate distribution within the target area.
3. The question of agents' personal mail was not specifically covered in LINC 3370. We repeat here the gist of our organization's SOP in this matter: any communication, written by an agent and transmitted through our facilities, pouch, courier, cable or what not, must be read by a competent staff member b e f o r e transmittal is completed. There is absolutely no exception to this rule: assurance by the agent, any non-PBRIHE agent - regardless of rank or status - that a letter contains only personal matters, does not relieve us of the duty to read the communication. First of all, never take an agent's word for it if you can check it yourself. Second, our opinion as to what is personal and what may be operational, also what may constitute a breach of security even in an entirely private letter, may differ considerably from the opinions of our agents.
4. This censorship may be exercised either by the sending or by the receiving station. In the present case, however, considering the particular difficulties confronting Guatemala Station, we hope that you will agree that any work that can

~~SECRET~~
~~PBSUCCESS/RIBAT~~

~~SECRET~~
~~FBSUCCESS/RIBAT~~

possibly be done elsewhere must not be left to the Guatemalan staff. If you have read an agent's communication and have satisfied yourself that it is purely personal, of no operational interest and does not violate security, you may forward it laterally without any need for copies or translations, but you must state in your forwarding dispatch that you have checked the enclosed communications and have found them secure and of no operational significance.

5. Your argument that this is too much work for you may be factually correct, but does not change the basic rules as summarized above. Either Ontrich, Hegarty, etc. can read the letters before they turn them over to you for transmittal or they may explain to the agents in question that the present tense situation makes it impossible to transmit voluminous private mail. Post cards will inform anxious families adequately, for the moment, that the writer is alive and in good health - and will give you little difficulty in checking.

6. For lateral communications of an operational nature, the rule laid down in LINO 3370 continues to apply.

[]
JEROME C. DUNBAR

JOD/EFL/a
12 June 1954
Distribution:
2 - []
2 - GUAT
2 - WASH ✓
4 - LINO

~~SECRET~~
~~FBSUCCESS/RIBAT~~