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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Guatemalan Approach - June 5, 1954

1. [] called about 9:00 p.m. and said it was urgent to see Lawrence; he was calling from [] house and could come before 11; and this he did. His insistence was because he had an urgent message.

2. [] said that if the United States is going to organize collective action against Guatemala it must do so quickly. This word was from the [] It had been brought to him by the visitor who came on Wednesday, June 2. It would hurt everybody in Guatemala, including the anti-Communists, but this would not matter if the results could be achieved. What is important is that it be instituted very quickly, as this is the right time to act.

3. Lawrence said that he is sure something will be done, and that whatever is done it would be through the inter-American system, as the United States had pledged itself to act in consultation with the other republics in this Hemisphere on problems which affect the Hemisphere. As to when it would be done Lawrence had no idea, he doubted it could be done very quickly as there are so many countries and interests involved. It would obviously take time.

4. [] then said that only some form of external action can save the country from the Communists. The people are helpless to move against Arbenz and his Communist supporters because the latter have so much more money and organization at their command. Lawrence said at this point that he was rather fed up with the constant insistence that the United States do something to solve the situation when the armed forces had sat on their hands for the last nine years and placidly watched this situation develop; indeed, if nothing

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can be done except by external action, it belied the repeated assertion that the Army is anti-Communist and will not permit the Communists to gain control. It is impossible to recall any other country in the Hemisphere where the Army has been so soft and ineffectual in averting a general danger to the national welfare; in country after country, the armed forces have exerted their influence at the proper time to turn back Communist inroads, and they have not waited for the inter-American system or the big brother of the north to do it for them.

5. [] was very depressed and said he feels he must get out by the end of this month. He has the opportunity for another job beginning July 1 and does not want to pass it up. Lawrence asked him whether he would openly leave his position and denounce the Communists at the same time, as he had long ago offered to do. [] hesitated a moment, said that he has two brothers, three sisters and his parents in Guatemala and wondered what would happen to them; he then said that he would adhere to what he had promised before and that he will resign publicly, denounce the Communists, including Arbenz, and call on his countrymen to rise up against them; he will say or write anything we suggest. Lawrence told him that if only a few others felt like [] did and had the same courage the problem would long ago have been settled.

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