

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments thereunder by numbered paragraph. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action is completed and ready for filing. This cover sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO	FROM	DATE
<p>Exec</p> <p>DC/P</p> <p>C/P</p> <p>ban</p> <p>100</p>	<p>C/PP. -- I prepared the attached story for SHERWOOD, after Guat told us that release of the story would not harm their source and that no further info was available for the time being.</p> <p>Not yet taped []</p> <p>Sorry - I see no value but on contrary some distasteful reactions. Recommend filing without further action. []</p> <p>I agree for your person & also that this is a very () story. I remember its coming through your line up. It's surely in the gossip []</p> <p>Told Mr. Phillips to cancel. []</p>	<p>4 June</p> <p>5 June</p> <p>PP FILES</p> <p>SHERWOOD program</p>

(A distinguished stranger provides female companionship for Arbenz)

The tourist traffic in our country is virtually dead: no wonder -- people who have the money to visit foreign countries don't want to spend their vacations under communist rule

We believed until now that the only foreigners welcomed here by the Arbenz-Fortuny regime are foreign communists: from many Latin American countries, even from Spain, communist fugitives have been granted generously asylum here, while others to use the hospitable soil of Guatemala (and the funds lavishly contributed from our taxpayers' money) as a convenient point of departure to promote strikes, unrest, communist propaganda and other plots throughout the Americas.

Most recently, however, we have learned that Arbenz welcome also a few persons of foreign origin for other than political reasons. As our first example, we present today the case of Sr. Guillermo Griffel, a native of Austria who has been granted Guatemalan citizenship not so long ago. Sr. Griffel is a partner of the A. Zadik company which has been awarded some rather remunerative contracts on the Atlantic Highway and in other government projects. He has also interests in the chiclé business in Peten and owns several fincas.

These fincas have been visited more than once, first by former ^President Arévalo and more recently by Arbenz. We wondered at first, why: Griffel is not a communist, but on the contrary a religious ^Jew who plays an active role in the Jewish Community, he is not a man who attracts by witty conversation and his money can be hardly of interest to Arbenz who is very well to do himself.

The secret of these presidential visits is, as we learned from one of the workers employed by Sr. Griffel, that he knows how to surround himself with beautiful women (he is a bachelor). Eager to please the ^President of his adopted homeland, Sr. Griffel does not mind if one of the ladies in question keeps the President company alone or e

accompanies him when he leaves or meets him at some other place at his pleasure. This arrangement is said to have worked well with ex-President Arévalo and seems to please Arbenz, too.

Naturally, Mrs. Arbenz cannot accompany her husband if he visits a bachelor friend of his