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KINGMAN  
SHERWOOD

Script: "Is Guatemala doomed to become another Korea?"

We are forwarding herewith copy of subject script, prepared for SHERWOOD.

Like the preceding ones, this is for your own information and guidance only and  
not to be shown to any outside agent.

[ ]  
JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachment

JCB/EFL/a

31 May 1954

Distribution:

- 2 - GUAT (w/att)
- 2 - C [ ] (w/att)
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### Is Guatemala doomed to become another Korea?

During the last few weeks, as the scope, complexity and mad ambition of the communist plot against our beloved homeland rapidly unfolded not only before your eyes, but before public opinion in other Latin American countries and all over the world as well, the ominous comparison "Guatemala a second Korea" has been mentioned time and again. The communists and their camp followers scream: "Foreign imperialist intervention threatens to turn Guatemala into another Korea", but even independent and oppositional writers and speakers, possibly in good faith, try to admonish our liberation movement: "Don't do anything rash now - or else you will give the communist a pretext to start another Korean war."

In order to clarify our own stand on these contradictory, but equally gloomy predictions, let us first remember clearly what actually happened in Korea so that we understand what a comparison between our situation now and the situation that existed in Korea actually means.

Korea, a peninsula off the Pacific coast of the Asiatic mainland, bordering on China (Manchuria) not far from the Maritime Provinces of the Soviet Union and opposite the island empire of Japan, had been a Japanese colony for about 40 years. During World War II, the anti-Axis powers promised Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation. In the last days of the war, in August 1945, American troops landed in the South of Korea, while Soviet troops entered the country across its northern boundaries, both armies for the agreed purpose of taking the Japanese troops prisoners and removing them from the land. The 38th parallel, roughly dividing the peninsula into half, had been determined as demarcation line between American and Russian troops.

The Russians, however, dropped soon an iron curtain along this demarcation line (which had been never meant to be a political border) and established a communist

regime north of this artificial line. All attempts to get them to agree to nationwide elections failed. Nevertheless, the American troops left in 1948; the Red Army moved out at the same time, but left a strong communist North Korean army behind, equipped with arms taken from the defeated Japanese or furnished by Russia. There was only a small police force in democratic South Korea.

In June, 1950, Moscow ordered the North Korean communists to invade defenseless South Korea -- mainly for two purposes: to demonstrate to the rest of Asia (and of the world) the helplessness of the democratic countries in the face of "dynamic", "irresistible" communist expansion, but also to establish a vantage point from which to attack later Japan, first with subversive propaganda and then militarily, too.

But Moscow's aggressive scheming was based on entirely wrong premises, on a grotesque distortion and misunderstanding of political and moral reality as it exists in the non-communist world: while the South Korean police force was easily driven back by the well-armed North Korean communist aggressors, the United Nations sent a force composed of troops from 16 nations, largely U.S. troops, but also Turkish, Greek and even Ethiopian contingents, to help repel this shameless breach of the peace.

The United Nations forces stopped communist aggression near the southernmost tip of the Korean peninsula and drove them greatly back all the way, across the 38th parallel, until the North Korean forces were virally annihilated near the northern border of Korea, adjoining Chinese Manchuria. In this crucial moment, the Chinese Communists came to the rescue of their beaten Korean comrades, throwing a total of about one million men against the United Nations forces. The Chinese Red Army recklessly sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives of its own soldiers to make up for the shortage in heavy arms (which China did produce herself and which Russia was reluctant to give for a "side show", even though that aggression had been ordered

by Moscow). Later, the Soviets saw themselves compelled to come to the aid of their Chinese cannon fodder by sending jet planes (MiG 15's) and other modern equipment.

Despite all communist efforts, the Chinese barely managed to re-occupy gradually most of the territory north of the 38th parallel which had been under communist control already before they started their aggressive invasion of Southern Korea. After a long stalemate, the Communists were finally forced to sign an armistice with the United Nations, even conceding that their own soldiers who had been taken prisoners by the UN troops but did not want to return to the communist 'paradise', would not be repatriated involuntarily. It had been this communist demand for compulsory repatriation of all prisoners which had held up armistice negotiations for more than one year, causing many needless additional casualties: more than 30,000 Chinese and North Korean soldiers chose freedom and did not return.

What does the Korean experience mean for us in Guatemala? First of all, it shows clearly the Communists were the aggressors -- just as they alone have been the aggressors the imperialist americanists in many parts of the world since World War II. Therefore, the communists and their friends in our country warn ominously that Guatemala is to be a second Korea, they really imply that they are getting ready for an act of aggression -- hoping, of course, for better results than they managed to achieve in Korea.

Second, the fact of the Korean aggression proves that it had been possible only because South Korea was virtually defenseless, observing passively how the North Koreans invaded. After division, received one shipment of Soviet and Red Chinese arms and the other, organized communist guerilla troops and so forth. This is an important warning for all of us: we must now wait until the communists

in our country are ready for armed aggression, too. The Army must rise to do its duty defending our constitution and our liberties. The landing and distribution of further shipments of Soviet arms must be prevented. The communist conspiracy must be rendered harmless before it results in devastating bloodshed and ruin as it did in Korea.

Third and finally, the Korean story proves that the communists, despite their megalomaniacal claims to possess superior political foresight and wisdom, are blundering again and again, unable to understand the realities of this world, misled by their materialistic, godless philosophy. We must therefore not allow ourselves to be intimidated, neither by communist threats and terrorism, nor by the fainthearted advice of appeasers and compromisers.

Look at the pictures of the Korean towns and villages in ruins, read the stories of the frightful sufferings of the Korean people, of the killings, tortures, kidnappings, mass deportations to forced labor to which they were exposed under Red rule: then you know what's in store for yourself, your family and your country if we wait till the communists have an opportunity to turn Guatemala into a second Korea.

Let's not wait! Let's act now! Let's put an end to the conspiracy of the communists, their allies and their mercenaries; let's put an end to the treacherous Arbens-Fortuny regime and let's safeguard peace and freedom of our beloved homeland!

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