

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

VIA _____
(Specify Air or
Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. HUL-A- 895

~~RYBAT/PBSUCCESS/SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

23 MAY 1954

DATE _____

TO **ACOS, Guatemala City**
FROM **LINCOLN** **INFO Washington**

SUBJECT { **GENERAL**
SPECIFIC } **Operational Matters**
Intelligence Requirements

1. In view of the events of the past few days it is believed that a review of our most important intelligence requirements as of this time is in order. Basically, there is no change from the directions which have gone out to you during the past few weeks. Your primary intelligence task continues to be the procurement of information on (1) the extent of the knowledge which the Guatemalan government and Army have regarding PBSUCCESS and (2) exactly what they propose to do with respect to this knowledge. Also important, and this is connected with the second point above, is information concerning the destination of the new arms and ammunition being obtained. That is, are these arms staying directly under the control of regular Army units, or are some being distributed to such organizations as labor unions or the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT)?
2. Possibly Guatemalan government and Army officials did not have detailed information with respect to how and when the arms on the Alfhem were to arrive. However, it would seem probable that there is information in official files regarding this order and the means by which it was to be shipped. Certainly the procurement and distribution of arms is one important method by which something is being done by the government to counteract opposition movements. As such, information with respect thereto is, and has been, a primary intelligence task.
3. It is realized that the station has been swamped with many requests for action and information. However, the continued importance of this intelligence task is again emphasized. One ship is in, but there may be others. Of particular importance is the matter of ammunition. You should exert all possible efforts to obtain information regarding orders for additional arms and ammunition. Does the government expect more? If so, when and how are they coming, and of what do the orders consist?
4. Efforts are being made to place SEMANTIC and SECANT directly under

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your supervision and direction, but this must proceed gradually. In the meantime you should attempt to guide them and tell them exactly what is wanted. If possible ESCOBILLA should try and talk with SEMANTIC at length two or three times a week. In this way SEMANTIC can be thoroughly briefed and debriefed, and we will not be forced to rely on scattered bits of information. If such interviews can take place a short time before the pouch deadline, the results can be pouched, thereby reducing the congestion in cable traffic. If you do not have time to type a dispatch in proper form, it is perfectly permissible to send rough draft notes or dictaphone tapes.

5. Other assets of the station which might possibly be of some assistance from an intelligence standpoint would appear to be [] ESPERANCE, ESQUIRE, and ESCONSON. [] in particular, should be informed of the importance placed on the procurement of information of this type. He probably has access, or the means to obtain access, to the information we need, and all possible pressure should be placed on him to get this material. ESPERANCE, ESQUIRE and ESCONSON have government and military contacts which should be used to the limit of their possibilities.

[]
JEROME/C. DUNBAR

[]
VINCENT/d

22 May 1954

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