

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

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File

3 May 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Project
FROM : Chief, Air Support
SUBJECT : Utilization of [] owned Douglass A-20 type aircraft

1. [] has [] one Douglass A-20 type aircraft. This aircraft was observed parked in the military aircraft parking area at Somerset.

2. The air worthiness condition of this particular aircraft is not known at this time. However, based on conversations with [] it is assumed that this aircraft is or was recently in flyable condition.

3. It is suggested that this A-20 aircraft be used for leaflet drops over Guatemala City and other key cities in Guatemala. This aircraft would be completely sterile insofar as pertains to the U. S.

4. It is considered probable that [] would make available this aircraft for Calligeres' use either on a contract rental basis or possibly he would sell same to Calligeres.

5. The A-20 type aircraft would be ideal for making leaflet drops and could be identified as aircraft procured by and belonging to Calligeres. This aircraft is much faster than any aircraft presently owned by Arbenz. (This statement based on report of aircraft in Guatemala as submitted by Air Attache during February 1954).

6. If you concur on the proposed use of this A-20 type aircraft for leaflet drops, it is recommended that the following action be taken by Chief, Air Support:

- a. Chief, Air Support proceed to [] re above for conference with []
- b. Determine flyable condition of aircraft and what maintenance work would be required, if any, to make this aircraft air worthy. (To determine the air worthiness of this aircraft, it is recommended that one of the presently available C.A.T. crew chiefs drop off at Somerset with Broadfrost and remain until the next cargo flight can pick him up and return to FJHOPFUL. During this 24-hour period, the crew chief could thoroughly check the A-20.)

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- c. Obtained from [] concurrence to use this aircraft for leaflet drops and to base aircraft at Somerset. (Missions would be run from Somerset to target and return to Somerset.)
- d. Offer to lease the aircraft from [] or buy the aircraft outright, depending on which is more desirable for future plans.
- e. If [] is agreeable to a lease, it is believed advisable to offer him a lease based on an hourly rental basis whereby we would pay [] \$100 per flying hour. If [] requires a minimum number of flying hours guaranteed, it is suggested that we do not exceed fifty hours (or a total of \$5,000 U. S.)
- f. All [] identification markings on this aircraft to be removed after darkness at Somerset.

7. If [] is agreeable to proposal as stated above, it is further recommended that action be taken to train a sterile pilot at Somerset to conduct all leaflet missions. It is suggested that [] be considered for this assignment ([] now has a covert security clearance from I&S). [] knows this country quite well and Brodfrost could check him out in the A-20 at Somerset. It may be possible to have [] or one of his pilots to check out [] in the A-20.

8. If [] is not used, it may be possible to use one of the presently available C.A.T. pilots to fly the leaflet missions.

9. In event we use [] or one of the C.A.T. pilots, we could work up a plausible cover story whereby either of the above pilots are under contract to Calligeres and flying Calligeres' aircraft.

MALCOLM H. BRODFROST
Chief, Air Support