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RYBAT

DISPATCH NO. HGG-A-690

~~SECRET~~  
CLASSIFICATION

FEB 3 1954

TO : Chief, Lincoln

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Washington

SUBJECT: GENERAL— PBSUCCESS

SPECIFIC— Memoranda of Conversations

1. Enclosed are three (3) memoranda containing information of possible interest to PBSUCCESS.
2. Enclosure No. 1, dated 27 January 1954, contains further information regarding the attitudes of Colonel Elfego ~~MONZON~~ and the relative strength of the Guardia Civil and the Army. The source of this information is believed to be ESQUIRE.
3. Enclosure No. 2, dated 21 January 1954, refers to a conversation between Dr. Robert ALEXANDER, of Rutgers University and a representative of the American Federation of Labor, and Leonardo CASTILLO Flores, Secretary General of the Confederacion Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG), during which the latter reportedly revealed a serious breach in relations between his organization and the Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG) f
4. Enclosure No. 3, dated 18 January 1954, contains material of interest in connection with General Miguel ~~IDIGORAS~~ Fuentes and his alleged personal representative in Guatemala, Guillermo DAVILA Cordova. The latter was arrested on 23 January 1954, has since been expelled from the country, and is now reported to be in Mexico. Attached to this enclosure is a copy of a memorandum which DAVILA left with the interviewing Embassy officer.

[ George L. Tranger ]

Enclosures: as noted

1 February 1954

Distribution:

- 2 - Lincoln w/encl
- 3 - Washington w/encl
- 1 - Files w/encl

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ENC. 1

C O P Y

January 26,

To: Mr. Krieg

From: A. B. Wardlaw

A finquero who has on previous occasions supplied me certain information recently told me that he had learned from the Czech ~~KUBES~~ who is a next-door neighbor of Colonel Elfego MONZON that the Colonel seems to be prepared psychologically for joining the opposition. Colonel Monzon reportedly stated that he had 300 officers on his side, but my informant did not know whether this meant they were merely well disposed towards Monzon or actually had come to some sort of understanding with him. Colonel Monzon is quoted as having stated that it would be too bad to have the uprising occur just at this time when things were not quite ready.

A few days ago Colonel Monzon was shocked to learn that the Guardia Civil had recently received 500 sub-machine guns from Belgium and he was particularly annoyed that despite his position in the Guatemalan Army this delivery had been effected without his having been informed. He arranged to inspect one of these guns and reported it to be a very fine weapon. The guns fire clips of 30 cartridges. He is reported to have said that the delivery of these guns to the police was an affront to the Army.

My informant was of the opinion that the police are now better equipped for fighting inside the city than is the Army. Supporting his view that the Army's weapons are in a very poor state, he remarked that an individual by the name of Julio ~~GAITAN~~, whom he knows slightly, told him that he had recently visited the barracks at Guardia de Honor where he observed 150 soldiers working away at rifle cartridges with files. He asked an officer what the soldiers were doing and was informed that they were filing down Czech cartridges which did not quite fit the 7 mm. rifled used by the Guatemalan Army. My informant took this as evidence that the Guatemalan Army is suffering a desperate shortage of ammunition.

My informant also reported that it is said by many people in Guatemala that the opposition has a large store of arms in Ahuachapan, El Salvador, which is not far from the Guatemalan border. He had no further information on this.

I am convinced of the reliability of my informant but I have no opinion about the reliability of Kubes or Gaitan.

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Enclosure No. 1

C O P Y

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

DATE: January 21, 1954

Dr. Robert Alexander, Rutgers University;

William L. Krieg, Counselor of Embassy

SUBJECT: CNGC Relations with CGTG

Dr. Alexander told me that he had had a rather lengthy talk with Sr. Leonardo CASTILLO Flores, Secretary General of the Confederacion Campesina de Guatemala (CNGC) and had gained the impression that Castillo Flores was far from enthusiastic about his relations with the Communists of the CGTG and that a potential rivalry existed between the two organizations.

Dr. Alexander said that Castillo Flores made no effort to conceal his dislike for the CGTG in his conversation. Alexander had inquired whether there were conflicts of jurisdiction between the two organizations and Castillo Flores had replied that his organization concentrated on independent farmers whereas the CGTG concentrated on farm laborers who were employed by landowners or by the Government. Dr. Alexander had then asked what effect the Agrarian Reform was having on the two organizations, and Castillo Flores had replied that when the peasants received land of their own they usually transferred to the CNGC. In many cases, he went on, the CGTG unions had transferred en masse to the CNGC because it was able to do more for them in the way of agricultural advice and credits whereas the CGTG was principally interested in higher pay and work conditions. Dr. Alexander said that he had asked Castillo Flores whether the leaders of the CGTG were Communists; Castillo Flores said that they were. Alexander had then asked whether there were any Communists among the leadership of the CNGC and Castillo Flores had replied emphatically that there were not, adding, "That's why they're jealous of us."

*for PK  
L. Torres*

[

Dr. Alexander said that when he went to CNGC Headquarters he had asked to see Sr. Clodoveo TORRES Moss with whom he had talked last summer and had been informed, "He doesn't work here any more."

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ENCLOSURE

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Enclosure: No. 2

C O P Y

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

January 18, 1954

Participants: Guillermo DAVILA Cordova  
John Calvin Hill, Jr.

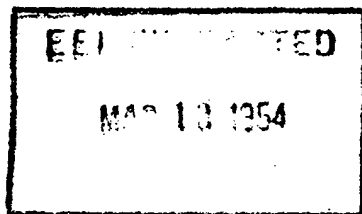
I talked for about one hour this morning to Lic. DAVILA who had called on the Ambassador without appointment or reference, stating that he was the personal representative of General Miguel IDIGORAS Fuentes.

Lic. Davila described at some length the elections and what he considered the frauds that had deprived General Idigoras of the Presidency in 1950. He said the General enjoyed more support than any other Guatemalan anti-communist leader, and should be aided. The CASTILLO Armas and Juan CORDOVA Cerna group were infiltrated by Guatemalan government agents, some of them paid from IGSS funds. The opposition to the government was united in sentiment and all that was needed to galvanize them into action was a leader who enjoyed the necessary material support.

I told Lic. Davila repeatedly that the United States was committed to inter-American non-intervention agreements and how this applied to the penetration of international Communism would be determined at the Caracas Conference, now six weeks away. Our opposition to Communist intervention in the hemisphere, including Guatemala, had been made clear many times and, within the framework of our commitments—including the Caracas recommendations—we were disposed to do what was possible to halt it. However, it was useless even to discuss aid to any anti-Communist group or wider political or economic action until (a) the Caracas Conference had made recommendations with respect to Communism and (b) there should be a representative, unified opposition to Communism. Neither the United States nor the hemispheric community could choose between the rival and conflicting anti-Communist leaders; this was an affair for the Guatemalans themselves. It was my personal thought that if when the American states had to re-orient their policies in the light of Caracas, all Guatemalans, whether or not now formally attached to a political group, would present a united directive representative of opposition to Communism, they would stand a better chance.

Lic. Davila Cordova said he was in contact with the principal anti-Communist leaders and would work actively for unity before Caracas. He left the attached memorandum.

Attachment - 1



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Enclosure No. 3

Rough Translation

GUILLERMO DAVILA CORDOVA  
Lawyer and Notary  
Etc.

MEMORANDUM TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES

1 - Neither division nor substantial differences exist among the groups opposed to the Communist Government headed by Colonel Arbenz. What has happened is that the persons who have been supplied with financial aid lack sympathy and prestige in popular opinion; and those who do have the confidence and sympathy of the people and who would be backed by the people in any action, such as General Engineer Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, live in poverty, and have not received the necessary financial support to enable them, followed by the people, to liberate Guatemala from Communist oppression. Because of this lack of aid, any concrete action has been physically impossible.

Help from Guatemalan capitalists has been impossible since strict financial controls are placed over their books, making all their investments known; for this reason, and because of constant threats from the Government, they are afraid to make any sizable allotments which they cannot justify to government officials checking on them. Further, national capitalists have most of their funds invested in non-liquid assets.

2 - 95% of the Guatemalan people are in the opposition. Colonel Arbenz' government was imposed by fraudulent means employed by the ex-President, Dr. Juan Jose Arevalo so that his successor could carry on the sovietization of the country, and the sentiments of the nation attest to the fact that the people really wanted General Eng. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes as President. Despite the fact that the government engaged in all kinds of fraud, fearing that they would

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be defeated by popular will, they were forced to resort to violence, jailing the principal Ydigorist leaders and persecuting candidate Ydigoras himself for months before the elections.

3 - We do not believe that direct intervention by any government is necessary for the solution of the Communist problem in Guatemala; sufficient material aid would be enough. The amount to be determined by the military technicians headed by General Ydigoras Fuentes who is already in possession of the most important item namely popular prestige throughout the Nation which would support him in any revolutionary movement.

4 - The undersigned is the personal representative of Gen. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes and maintains contact in all militant Ydigorist groups throughout the Republic, and with all sympathizers in the opposition. He is therefore fully authorized to deal with all matters related to this transcendental problem which affects continental security.

Guatemala, January 19, 1954.