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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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INDIVIDUAL PP ASSESSMENT, CHATELAIN, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CEUA  
AND THE NEWSPAPER, EL REBELDE.

1. The existence of an anti-communist university group bearing the name Comite Estudiantes Universitarios Anti-Comunistas <sup>(CEUA)</sup> became known to Station Guatemala in 1951 and with the continued growth of the communist menace in Guatemala our agency decided to endeavor to aid this organization in ~~the~~ its struggle against Communism. Following the ill-conceived and abortive Salama revolutionary attempt, some of the leading members of the CEUA sought refuge in Honduras and Salvador. The activities of the CEUA refugees or exiles have been studied in a separate report.

Donald O. HEDIGER, a staff agent assigned to Station Guatemala entered into direct contact with two members of the CEUA organization utilizing a ~~the~~ cover story that he, HEDIGER, knew of a group of American and Guatemalan business men who were willing and anxious to financially contribute to an anti-communist campaign in Guatemala but with the understanding that their identities would not and could not be revealed for obvious reasons. One of the CEUA representatives proved to be a vacillating type with whom little could be done but the other, who was subsequently given the cryptonym ESSENCE, has become the mainspring of our PP activities in Guatemala.

2. Over the course of the months following this first meeting, ESSENCE has organized an entity known as ~~the~~ Organizaciones Anti-Comunistas Unidas (OAU) which now groups together the Comite Civico Nacional (CCN), the Comite Nacional ~~the~~ Feminino (CNF), Comite Obrero Anticomunista (COA), and the Comite Juvenil Anti-comunista (CJA). It is also believed that other groups will become associated with the OAU through infiltration by ESSENCE sub-agents. These probably will include the Partido Unificacion Anticomunista (PUA), the Partido Unificacion Democratico (PUD), and the Partido Independiente Anticomunista del Oriente (PIACO).

The entity known as Organizaciones Anti-Comunistas Unidas (OAU) is dominated by the CEUA which, in turn, is dominated by ESSENCE through sub-agent ESSENCE-19  
ESSENCE-2.

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ESSENCE himself takes no part in the overt operations of CAU or of the CEUA.

The CEUA, also known as ESSENCE-A, has engaged in overt white propaganda activities and anti-government of an avowedly anti-communist/nature and has organized a distributing mechanism covering Guatemala. Within the overt organization, ESSENCE is building up a secret and selected organization known as ESSENCE B which will be controlled by ESSENCE by ESSENCE-3. This organization will engage in covert anti-government and anti-communist black propaganda, will be composed of approximately six persons, and will include ESSENCE-3 and ESSENCE-4 who will be the only ones aware of ESSENCE's activities.

The direct action group now known as ESSENCE-C will be headed by ESSENCE 5 working under the direct instructions of ESSENCE.

A courier group for maintaining liaison with exiled groups will be known as ESSENCE D and the couriers will be trusted members of ESSENCE A operating under the control of ESSENCE-1 and ESSENCE-3

The anti-communist news bulletin, known as ESSENCE-E, will appear to be the official organ of ESSENCE-A. Control is exercised by ESSENCE through ESSENCE-6. This newspaper or news bulletin has now come out under the name El Rebelde. So far as is known, the only issue published to date was that of 23 November 1953 and ten thousand copies are believed to have been published.

It is also planned to organize a radio program which will be known as ESSENCE-F and will be handled by ESSENCE through ESSENCE-7. It is planned that this radio program shall appear to be financed by means of advertisements solicited from local businessmen.

KEY PERSONNEL:

The key individuals first met by Donald O. HEDIGER, who operated under the direction of the Chief of Station, Guatemala, were [ ] and the individual now known as ESSENCE [ ]

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The first individual mentioned, [ ] is a member and [ ] of the Asociacion de Estudiantes Universitarios (AEU), a delegate to the [ ] [ ], an observer for [ ] in opposition to the International Union of Students, and prominent in non-communist student activities in Guatemala. Subsequently, it was found that [ ] was a very vacillating individual, weak, with little organizing ability, and unwilling to do <sup>ANYTHING</sup> ~~nothing~~ which might embarrass him. He was ~~subsex~~ dropped and, to date, there has been no repercussion.

#### Modus Operandi

On one occasion, 15 September 1953, 106,600 anti-communist stickers, labels, and flyleaves were released in Guatemala City and in 123 outlying towns and fincas. These propaganda items were ~~100,000~~ prepared by ESSENCE and his group and printed in local shops. CEUA members took the lead in the distribution/<sup>in Guatemala City</sup> but seem to have been aided by railroad workers and bus drivers in the case of outlying towns. Of interest was the observation that the best results were achieved with flyleaflets which could be picked up, read, and redistributed. Less success was encountered in the use of stickers. Flyers or leaflets are also cheaper to print and to distribute.

~~The material~~ The first issue of El Rebelde was printed in the Talleres Gutemberg, 6 Av. 15-70, Guatemala City, and the basis for some of the articles was supplied ESSENCE through [ ] The newspaper or news bulletin EL REBELDE first appeared on 23 November 1953 and is scheduled to be a weekly publication. The first edition is believed to have been of 10,000 copies. Little or nothing is known about the distribution except that one of the distributing centers is located at 4a Av. Norte #18, Guatemala City. El Rebelde is sold for five centavos per copy and, apparently, the distribution is not interfered with by the Guatemalan ~~SECRET~~

authorities. It is assumed, though not known, that distribution on a national scale will be attempted if not already accomplished.

Character of Themes:

El Rebelde is violently anti-communist and anti-government and its style of presentation is regarded as generally good; probably better than the majority of news bulletins in other Latin American countries. It is regarded as essential that the type of theme and language used be kept at a level acceptable to the ~~main~~ target at which it is aimed. The articles in El Rebelde are probably far beyond the understanding of the average Guatemalan since the ~~the~~ level of education is low. However, since El Rebelde purports to be the organ of the anti-communist student organization, it is regarded as normal and more or less to be expected that this bulletin, at least in its first editions, should obviously be aimed at the educated and at the young university student audience. If so desired, later editions can be slanted downward to reach a broader audience. It is still too early to judge whether or not El Rebelde is reaching a large audience or whether or not it is having the desired effect since to date and as far as we know only one issue has been published.

It is of interest that the first issue of El Rebelde contained a facsimile of one of the stickers apparently distributed on 15 September 1953. This is regarded as unfortunate since it would have been better ~~not~~ to have so obviously tied up the news bulletin with the distribution of propaganda. As mentioned previously, ESSENCE intends or intended to form a special group for the distribution of black propaganda. In this particular case, no great violation of fundamental principles was committed since the propaganda distributed ~~carried~~ on 15 September 1953 carried the words Dios-Patria-Libertad; this being the motto of El Rebelde and of the CEUA. Any black propaganda distributed ~~in~~ in the future must bear no such clear indication of its origin.

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(coincide with)

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]

~~It is not understood just how ESSENCE was told of the cryptonym assigned him. It is obvious that both the Station and ESSENCE was negligent in this matter.~~

It is known that ESSENCE hopes to organize a radio program but it is not known whether or not he has done so to date. It is believed that a radio program might be even more successful than the news bulletin in reaching the illiterate masses.

Overt or Covert Support.

It is known that the bulletin El Rebelde solicits aid, both moral and financial, in carrying out its campaign and there is reason to believe that financial support is also being received from RUFUS as well as from Station Guatemala. It is known that the proposed field project submitted by Station Guatemala, which has not officially yet been approved -- though it has unofficially -- by Headquarters, calls for an expenditure of \$32,025 as financial support to the ESSENCE project by Station Guatemala. There is no information as yet available concerning the amount of funds supplied by RUFUS from the funds advanced him through other channels by this organization.

Control of Medium

Since the great majority of funds are supplied directly or indirectly by this agency, the result is that a certain amount of control can be exercised. In the case of the funds from Station Guatemala, however, it has been clearly stated to ESSENCE that these funds come from a group of American and Guatemalan businessmen who oppose communism and are willing to contribute while remaining anonymous but with the understanding that ESSENCE would be a free agent and not a political puppet. It was on this understanding that he accepted financial support from this "anonymous group". There is no indication at present that ESSENCE can be controlled although he can be guided by Station Guatemala. It is equally obvious that the control over ESSENCE by RUFUS will depend entirely upon the control this Agency exercises

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over RUFUS himself.

Biographical information on ESSENCE has previously been submitted to Headquarters but this Project has not yet been presented for formal approval. The appropriate Headquarters desk is currently preparing the ESSENCE project although biographical information is still lacking concerning the unidentified members of the ESSENCE net.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The ESSENCE Project offers great possibilities in carrying out an effective anti-government and anti-communist campaign in Guatemala. It is the writer's belief, however, that efforts must be made to achieve a means through which the ESSENCE net ~~will be able to reach and influence the great mass of Guatemalans who, because of illiteracy, cannot be reached by a news bulletin which is written on a rather high or "intellectual" plane.~~ activities will be able to reach and influence the great mass of Guatemalans who, because of illiteracy, cannot be reached by a news bulletin which is written on a rather high or "intellectual" plane. It is further believed that every effort must be made to go from the general to the specific in the sense of attacking specific incidents and, if necessary, people rather than keeping to a generalized program. It well may be that this is the plan which ESSENCE intends to follow and it is impossible at this time to judge accurately since we have but the first issue of El Rebelde and no knowledge of his future plans with respect to editorial policy.

One point of great interest is that the ESSENCE Project is an excellent training ground and should result in the <sup>formation</sup> forging of a cadre of trained, capable young men who can be counted on to carry on their anti-communist work in future years and after the ESSENCE Project itself has been abandoned. The existence of such a corps of trained and tested individuals will continue to be a definite asset for the future.

The matter of financial control and of control in general is the greatest weakness and a way must be found to check on sums advanced and on utilization of funds supplies so as to insure that the greatest possible advantage is achieved. If properly handled, it is possible that the proper administration of funds may also become the wedge through which lasting control can be attained over ESSENCE.

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