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SECURITY INFORMATION

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

27 November 1953

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Guatemala; Conversation at State Department

PARTICIPANTS: Department of State
John H. Cabot

Assistant Secretary to State
for Inter-American Affairs

Central Intelligence Agency

1. I called on Mr. Cabot at his request at 4:00 p.m., today. He stated that he is going to talk to a group of coffee importers tomorrow, the assembly being arranged by Mr. Aborn (phonetic), one of their leaders. Mr. Cabot wants to ask them about the possibilities of stopping imports of coffee from Guatemala. He will not request them to do it, but will only inquire as to the possibilities.

2. Mr. Cabot requested that CIA, in some way, make it known to the highest Guatemalan government officials that he has been carrying on such conversations.

3. Mr. Cabot stated that he had heard that President Arbenz is in a tantrum about the situation into which he has gotten his country. There is even a report that he has offered to turn the government over to General Diaz. Mr. Cabot believes that the president and other high officials of the government may realize that the country can not stand up against the enmity of the United States and may want to change the regime to be more friendly to us.

4. Mr. Cabot thinks that this is the moment to start any operations that would make them worry. In addition to letting them know that he is talking with the coffee importers about cutting off their market for their principle product, he thinks that we might start some "poison pen" letters and other things to disrupt the morale of the higher officials.

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