

26 May 1954

**EYES ONLY**

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Henry F. Holland 25 May with respect to arms being delivered to Honduras.

1. Henry Holland told me yesterday afternoon that a friend of his from Dallas, Texas, by the name of [redacted], had called him on the telephone and asked him whether he was busy. He said "Yes -- haven't you been reading about me and all my arms importations?" The friend then replied that he had heard a great deal about Holland's arms importations into Honduras. He had heard this from another friend whose name is [redacted] last Wednesday and Thursday. [redacted] was up from Honduras and said that it was common knowledge that the United States was sending in airplane loads of arms to Honduras, and had been doing so for some time. He said the planes come in, taxi down to the far end of the runway, the arms are quickly unloaded, and the planes fly off.

2. Holland said that this did not fit in with anything he knew about and asked how his friend or his friend's informant concluded that

- a. The deliveries were arms; and
- b. The United States Government was sending them.

Holland's friend replied that he did not know exactly why the shipments were known to be arms, but that the planes were conspicuously American aircraft since a very bad job of over-painting of the insignia had been done and that it was quite possible for anyone to read the insignia through the over-painting. Holland again expressed disbelief and confusion, but asked his friend, [redacted] to talk again with [redacted] to find out any further details and to report them to him. Holland also said to me that he tried to blur this matter by referring to the recent arms shipments announced in the press -- i. e., those airlifts to Honduras and Nicaragua -- but that his friend was not having any of this. I believe LINCOLN should be notified immediately of this and asked to double check on the point of the insignia over-painting.

3. As for the rest, I consider that it was inevitable that so many flights would be spotted and that conclusions would be drawn. I doubt

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- 2 -

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that it would be wise for us to request that any approaches be made to either [ ] by OO in Texas, as this would tend to reveal too much US interest and put the CIA label on the query. We might, however, ask [ ] in Tegucigalpa to give us a more detailed report on [ ]

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FRANK G. WISNER  
Deputy Director (Plans)

DD/P-FGW/bjm 5/26/54

Orig. and 1 - C/WH and Mr. [ ]

1 cc - DD/P SUCCESS file. ✓

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