

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

DESPATCH NO. ~~834~~ 835

~~REF ID: A66083~~
CLASSIFICATION

DATE 19 MAY 1954

TO AOCB, Guatemala City

FROM LINCOLN INFO [] Washington

SUBJECT { GENERAL
SPECIFIC } Guatemalan Matters
Attempts of Guatemala to Obtain Arms

1. Recent [] reports indicate that various FOREIGN arms dealers are trying to obtain 22 P-51's and 25 AT-6's for Guatemala, in addition to large amounts of small arms. It is understood that payments would be made by the Chief of the Guatemalan Air Force through the Guatemalan Consul in Los Angeles to a foreign national arms dealer []. Purchases for the latter would be made by []

2. The P-51's would be obtained by [] from Lend Lease supplies in France. Lend Lease AT-6's are already owned by [] in Rhodesia. Other arms and ammunition would be procured by [] from Israel through London contacts, or direct from the [] arms pile in Israel. It was planned that the P-51's would be sold legitimately by [] to Dominicans who would sell an equal number of their own planes to him. He would then send them to Costa Rica for overhauling and ferrying to Guatemala. The AT-6's would be sent directly from Rhodesia to Costa Rica. The arms would be transferred to a Guatemalan ship from a [] vessel on the high seas.

3. It is possible that [] are double-crossing each other. Both tried to make a deal with a foreign national aircraft parts dealer. The Los Angeles Consul [] Air Force Chief on 27 January 1954, and the latter accepted the arrangement the following day []. [] may have gone to Guatemala later to sign a contract. A go-between was used because it was known that export licenses would not be granted for aircraft delivery to Guatemala. [] all denied intentions to supply arms in a covert manner to Guatemala. The AT-6's were reportedly sold to the [] of Miami, and are now at the International Airport in that city. The P-51's are stated to be still in France. A new plan is to obtain Australian Lend Lease P-51's through the [] Shipping and Trading Co. and ship by means of a [] vessel which would be diverted to Guatemala en route.

JEROME S. DUNBAR

18 May 1954
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