

16 December 1953

2003

CONTACT REPORT

DATE: 15 December 1953

PLACE: Pentagon - Col. Brad Smith's office

PRESENT: Col. Brad Smith ( Gen. Erskine's office)  
Col. Brandon (second in command, Military Mission Branch, USAF)  
Hans V. Tofte (representing PBSUCCESS)

COVER USED: None

REFERENCES: DD/P's memos to DDCI and DCI, dtd 19 Nov and 20 Nov 53,  
Subj: Exploitation of Military Missions.

DISCUSSION:

1. Pursuant to DD/P instruction, and at the request of Gen. Balmer (DD/P-PPC), I attended a meeting as indicated in the above at 1400 hours 15 Dec 53 for the purpose of briefing Col. C J, Chief, Military Mission, USAF, Guatemala, as per DD/P memos referenced in the above.

2. Col. C J was informed in general terms that the U.S. has decided to take action against Guatemala in order to curtail or eliminate Communist domination of the Government of that country. Col. C J appeared to appreciate precisely what would be required of him, and it is my impression that the Col. is qualified to handle the matter discretely and efficiently. It was emphasized that he would report directly to the Ambassador. (In this connection, it was ascertained that there would be no difficulty vis-a-vis the Air attache or the Military attache in the U.S. embassy in Guatemala City who would not be cut in on PBSUCCESS.)

3. It was discussed at the meeting that there was some possibility that the Agency might request extensions relative to the tours of duty of both (or one of) the current chiefs of Military Missions in Guatemala City in order to take advantage of their positions, their local know-how and the personal rapport they have developed with Guatemalan Government officials during the past two years.

Col. C J stated that as far as he was concerned it would not inconvenience him at all to have his tour of duty in Guatemala extended

for a period

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for a period of some months. He agreed that it would be difficult for new men to be of any particular use to PBSUCCESS; in his estimation it would take up to a year before the replacements scheduled to take over for himself and Col. [redacted] in March 1954 would be able to settle down properly and establish any kind of contact with Guatemalans of any use to PBSUCCESS.

4. IT IS RECOMMENDED that the above be carefully considered and that, if at all possible, the tour of duty of at least one of the current chiefs of mission be extended until, say, July 1954.

It is further recommended that the Ambassador in Guatemala City be notified about the briefing of Col. [redacted] who will avail himself of an early opportunity after his return to Guatemala to contact the Ambassador regarding the briefing recorded in this memo.

[redacted]

HANS V. TOFTE

1 of 3 - CWH  
2 of 3 - [redacted]  
3 of 3 - HVT

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