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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

24 November 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: Conference with DD/P re PBSUCCESS

TIME: 1130 hours, 24 November 1953
PLACE: DD/P's office
PRESENT: DD/P; CWH; C-PPC; C-PP/Ops; and
Chief of Station, Guatemala

1. Use of Military Missions: DD/P had called the meeting with the main intent to discuss the military missions currently stationed in Guatemala City and possible exploitation of same in connection with PBSUCCESS.

He asked [] (Chief of Station) about said missions. [] stated that the Army mission consisted of four officers headed by Col. [] the Air Force mission consisted of three officers headed by Col. []. Both these senior officers were, in [] estimation, excellent men; [] was more of an extrovert than [] who never talked much, especially not about political matters or international relations. [] did think, however, that both men could be used as indicated in DD/P's memos to DDCI and DCI, dated 19 and 20 November '53 respectively. (DD/P wants [] to see these memos.)

Gen. Balmer (PPC) had discussed the missions and the possible use of same as indicated in the above with Col. Brad Smith of Gen. Erskine's staff, mainly to prepare for the recall of [] and [] for briefing. [] volunteered that [] was supposed to be in the United States at Kelly Field where an airplane belonging to the Embassy was supposed to be overhauled. It was suggested that [] might be called to Washington for his briefing in connection with this visit.

DD/P immediately telephoned Col. Brad Smith suggesting that he endeavor to verify [] presence in the U.S. and call him to Washington for a briefing if feasible. At the same time, DD/P stated that Col. [] of the Army mission could be briefed abroad, if someone (e.g., Col. Smith himself) went to Guatemala with proper credentials from a top-flight Defense representative to do the job.

It is ascertained that the two mission Cols. came under the jurisdiction of G-3 of the Army and the Air Force respectively. Col. Brad Smith

would take care

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would take care of the issue concerning the use of said missions. He would verify the status of the officers as to normal termination of duty tours, etc.

(FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Gen. Balmer.)

It was tentatively decided that the reporting channel for the two chiefs of the military missions would be: Military Mission Chief to Ambassador to [] for transmittal to Washington Headquarters via CIA channels.

(FOLLOW-UP ACTION: [] to make appropriate contact with the Ambassador.)

2. [] Exchange between Arbenz and Ambassador: DD/P asked about the status of discussions concerning the reported debate between President Arbenz and the Guatemalan Ambassador in Washington. Mr. Tofte (C-PP/Ops) stated that [] and/or [] were looking into this matter directly with Mr. Lecky of State. DD/P indicated that he was interested in all information concerning this and that he wanted, if possible, to see the [] reports.

(ACTION: Mr. Tofte with [])

3. OAS Meeting in Caracas, March 1954: DD/P inquired what could be done to alert field stations to watch for possible Communist tricks and maneuvers in respect to the planned OAS meeting in Caracas. DD/P was anxious to avoid any kind of embarrassment that might be caused by customary Communist activities in connection with meetings of that nature. J. C. King (CWH) indicated that certain preparations were already completed in Venezuela where ten leading Communists were scheduled for jailing or other neutralization prior to the meeting. DD/P requested a complete report from J. C. King concerning alerting of field stations relative to the Caracas meeting.

(ACTION: J. C. King)

4. Missions to Nearby States: Gen. Balmer who is discussing military aid missions to Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador with Col. Brad Smith said that he had been given to understand that the Army might prefer one, single headquarters in one of the three countries from which active liaison with the other two would be maintained—say, a substantial headquarters in Nicaragua with active liaison into Honduras and El Salvador. J. C. King

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indicated that

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indicated that this would be all right, but DD/P suggested that the working group take up this question forthwith for further deliberation before a final reply was given to Col. Brad Smith.

(ACTION: PBSUCCESS working group.)

[]

HANS V. TOFTE
Chief, PP/Ops

C-PP/Ops/HVT:mgd
Distribution:

Cc 1 & 2 of 3 - []
3 of 3 - HVTofte

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EYES ONLY

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#2. Have written memo to Tofte

#4. Because of possible jealousies between the three countries, 3 US missions would be preferable. To convey the effect of concerted action, however, a single US group in Washington should head them up & this should be publicly stated.

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