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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Guatemala

DATE DISTR. 5 May 1952

SUBJECT Spanish Republican Activities

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Felix Gordon Ordas, president of the Council of Ministers of the Spanish Republic, visited Guatemala to present to Senora Amalia Herrera, Vda. de Munoz Meany, widow of the late Guatemalan Minister to France, a decoration awarded to him by the Spanish Republican Government. (b)(1)
(b)(3)
2. Juan Jose Arevalo, former Guatemalan President, had promised Gordon Ordas during his stay in Mexico City that he would participate in the presentation and arrived in Guatemala City on the day of the presentation. However, he was unable to take part in the ceremony because Captain Alfonso Martinez, secretary to President Jacobo Arbenz, was awaiting him at the airport to tell him that he was scheduled to have an interview with the President that same afternoon.
3. A meeting did take place the afternoon of 11 March 1952, the day Arevalo arrived in Guatemala, in which President Arbenz, Arevalo, Colonel Carlos Enrique Diaz, Chief of the Armed Forces, and other persons participated.
4. During his sojourn in Guatemala Gordon Ordas repeatedly tried to obtain an audience with President Arbenz, but without success. He remarked that he believed the reason for this might be that Arbenz suspected that Gordon Ordas was going to bring up the question of economic aid to the government of the Spanish Republic.
5. Prior to his departure from Guatemala Gordon Ordas cabled General Fulgencio Batista asking for an appointment in Habana, Cuba. Gordon Ordas, who has been a friend of Batista for sixteen years, was planning to raise the question of the security of the Spanish refugees in Cuba.

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