

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Guatemala/Mexico/Honduras

DATE DISTR. 28 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Plot to Overthrow the Guatemalan Government

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED

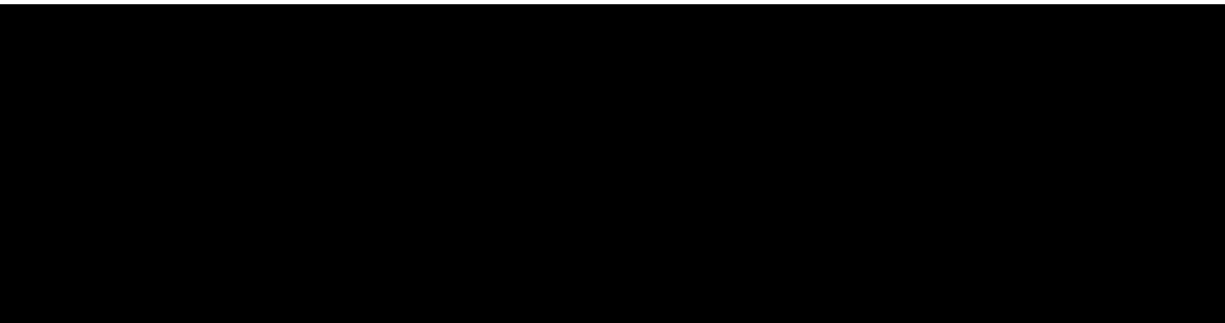
DATE OF INFO.

REFERENCE COPY

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DO NOT CIRCULATE

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



25X1X

A plot to overthrow the government of Guatemala is reportedly in the process of being developed. Although many of the details have not been finally established, the general form is reportedly as indicated below.

I. Aims

- A. To overthrow the present Guatemalan Government by force.
- B. To establish a provisional government composed of three members.
  - 1. The provisional government would be established for a period not to exceed two years and would take the following measures:
    - a. Abrogate the present socialistic constitution of 1945.
    - b. Convoke a constituent assembly.
    - c. Promulgate a new constitution, then hold general elections and terminate the provisional government.
  - 2. The provisional government would govern in accordance with the constitution of 1925, and by such auxiliary decrees as might be necessary.
- C. The new constitution would include the following points:
  - 1. Abolition of the government authority known as the Jefatura de las Armas. The revolutionaries reportedly believe that so long as the Jefatura de las Armas exists, the control of military and police powers by the person in that office constitutes a threat of tyranny in the nation.
  - 2. Abolition of all labor legislation since 1945. Labor organizations would be permitted, in the form of co-operatives, on a local basis, rather than on national lines. The connections between the Confederacion General de Trabajadores (CGT) and the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL) would be severed, and the CGT would probably cease to exist.

CONFIDENTIAL

MTD

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION					
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI							

Document No. 010

No Change In Class.

Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S 6

Date: 08/09/78 By: 029

~~SECRET CONTROL~~

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

3. Guarantees would be made to industry.

#### D. Foreign Policy

The provisional government, and presumably the government which would be put in office, would base Guatemala's foreign policy on its relations with the United Nations Organization and would comply with the commitments outlined in the pacts of Chapultepec and Rio de Janeiro. Beyond these, no special commitments with any nation are contemplated. An attempt would be made to maintain friendly relations with Mexico, but Mexican influence, whether official or unofficial, would be rejected.

#### E. General aims of the provisional government

The provisional government would have government of the country in accordance with the needs of the country as its basic aim. This would include modernization of the railways, construction of dams, expansion of agriculture and other economic improvements.

## II. Personnel

The revolutionaries reportedly estimate that the initial need for military personnel would amount to approximately 500. This small figure is said to be based on the hypothesis that the 500 would be efficiently armed. That is, instead of the rifles common to Central American movements of this type, the core of the troops would be armed with automatic weapons, bazookas, and mortars. The revolutionaries believe that a small group possessing great fire power and mobility would be better able to effect an invasion than a larger force. The fewer people to be recruited and trained, the less chance that information would be given away. The basic group of 500 would be recruited from anti-government Guatemalan exiles in Mexico and Central America, as well as a few inside Guatemala.

In the beginning, the revolutionaries plan to recruit about 50 men in whom they have the greatest confidence. These men would be trained in the use of the most advanced weapons at some remote point in Honduras, and would be the basis of the invasion force. As the equipment is obtained, this group would be gradually expanded and newer recruits trained to use the weapons assigned to them. These men would be instructed in the use of every weapon to be used by the entire force.

## III. Equipment

The equipment for the invasion force would include a few rifles, of about 30 caliber; a considerable number of Mendoza Bar, or similar automatic weapons; a considerable number of weapons in the sub-machinegun class; a few small mortars; and aircraft, the type and number of which have not yet been considered.

The chief aim is to give the small units heavy fire power. The bazookas are sought mainly to combat the Guatemalan Government's few tanks and perform the functions of light artillery without the necessity of packing the weight involved in artillery. The effect of the bazooka on the morale of defending troops is expected to be very great.

## IV. Transportation

Transportation would be entirely by pack animal. The weapons which would be used are light, and the use of pack animals would eliminate the need for vehicles, with the necessary supplies and maintenance personnel. It is believed that greater mobility would be achieved, and speed is not considered essential, since the distances to be covered in the invasion would be relatively short. Horses, mules, and donkeys could be obtained in the general vicinity of the invasion jump-off point.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET CONTROL~~

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~SECRET CONTROL~~  
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

## V. Operations

After the completion of the training of the troops and the assembling of the equipment, the invasion would proceed as set out below. The best time of year is during the dry season, from October to May.

### A. First Phase - to include the following simultaneous activities:

1. Crossing of the border by the invasion force at a point to be selected, but generally in the vicinity of Zacapa. The local garrison would be engaged, with the idea of overwhelming it with superior firepower, thereby gaining possession in a short time. The revolutionaries believe that the anti-government faction in this area is large and that the weapons of the garrison might be transferred to them, which would aid their forces considerably.
2. Bombing of the capital with pamphlets urging insurrection. Planes carrying the pamphlets would take off from a field in Honduras.
3. Sabotage of key railway bridges between Guatemala City and Puerto Barrios by small squads which would burn the railway ties to prevent the movement of troops, from either point, into the Zacapa area. Most troop movements in Guatemala are believed to be by rail.
4. Disruption of telephone communications. This would reportedly be accomplished by a person of importance in the telephone system.
5. The disruption of radio communications. This problem is said to be under study.
6. Rallying of supporters inside the capital. This would be done mainly through the chief of the Masonic Lodge and some people close to the Roman Catholic Church.

### B. Second Phase

After the accomplishment of the first phase, the invasion force would move across the railway connecting the capital with Puerto Barrios and march on the capital. At the same time, aerial bombing of military installations outside the capital would be carried out. The planes would use Guatemala instead of Honduran airfields after the invasion force had gained access to the country.

The revolutionaries believe that, as their movement progresses into the country, they will be joined by many of the anti-government groups, and, by the time they had reached the capital, they might have several thousand irregulars, plus the original heavily-armed force, at their disposition. The original group would have the equipment needed to besiege government buildings if necessary.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: Presumably the attacking forces consider themselves capable of repairing the railroad they previously sabotaged.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET CONTROL~~  
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY