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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-409452)

DATE: June 14, 1954
Havana, Cuba

WJ

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (100-368)

SUBJECT: POPULAR LEAGION OF COOPERATION OF THE
FREE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA
INTERNAL SECURITY - C & MEX

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Rebulet 3-15-54 to the Director, Office of Security, Department of State.

Through established sources such as the Cuban Army SIM and the Bureau of Investigations of the Cuban National Police, this office made inquiry concerning subject organization and has found no evidence there is any sort of recruiting campaign being carried on in Cuba as such.

Following the large scale publicity regarding the landing of some \$10,000,000 worth of arms by a boat called the ALFHEM in Guatemala, JAYMALLIN, a free lance newspaperman in Havana, advised that the Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU), the student organization in Havana University, had set up a table at the University to sign up volunteers to help Guatemala defend her sovereignty; however, this appeared to be more of a gesture on the part of the FEU with no intention of anyone going to Guatemala.

That there is a definite tie-in between some elements of the FEU and Guatemala is demonstrated by the following:

On May 25, 1954, a source at the Bureau of Investigations advised confidentially that a tap is being maintained on the telephone of the FEU and that in this connection on May 22, 1954, at 1:15 P.M. the following telephone call from the FEU telephone was intercepted.

One CARBONELL (identified by source as MANOLITO CARBONELL of the FEU Press Committee) called the Guatemalan Embassy and spoke with Dr. MONTENEGRO. CARBONELL advised the latter that the "acto" had just been finished and it was very pretty and that the Guatemalan flag was then floating over the Escalinata of the University. He asked MONTENEGRO if it would be possible to send a photographer and was assured that one would be sent at once. CARBONELL then asked MONTENEGRO about the possibility of seeing him at 8:00 o'clock, and MONTENEGRO replied that he would be waiting for them at that hour.

The Dr. MONTENEGRO mentioned above is ADOLFO GARCIA MONTENEGRO, Guatemalan Ambassador to Cuba.

About the end of February, 1954, a so-called Comite Pro-Guatemala was organized in Havana; however, this committee seemed designed to make favorable propaganda for Guatemala, especially in connection with the

CDA: JES

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To: Director, FBI (100-409452)

June 14, 1954
Havana, CubaSubject: POPULAR LEGION OF COOPERATION OF THE
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Caracas Conference, rather than with any intention of recruiting people to go to Guatemala to fight. The committee have every evidence of being strongly backed by the local Communists if not actually organized by them. CI HAV-2-S submitted the following summary concerning the activities of this committee:

The recently organized "Comite Pro-^UGuatemala" of Cuba issued its first public document last March 11, 1954. It follows:

"To the public opinion of Cuba and America.

"The efforts of the people of Guatemala and of its last two governments to rescue the national richness and organize it to the service of the nation and of the Guatemalan people, specially the Agrarian Reform tending to expropriate the enormous holdings of the United Fruit Company, have encountered an echo of sympathy in all America. The form in which Guatemala has carried forward this nationalist policy, for the benefit of all the sectors, of the peasantry and of the exploited Indian, through the scrupulous authorization of the Constitution and the Law, and compensating the Companies and individual owners, makes even more respectable this democratic program. However, against Guatemala are directed today, furiously, the forces that insist in maintaining our countries under the economic yoke and the most abominable backwardness. The United Fruit and the representatives of this exploiting policy, have organized numerous attempts to oust by violence the Government of Guatemala; even now, this Government has been forced to denounce a plot to invade the country in which are involved notorious dictators such as ANASTASIO SOMOZA and RAFAEL BONIFAS URUJILLO. And as a complement of these criminal designs, they are planning to use the Caracas Conference -held in a country where thousands of men are in jail for defending democracy -, with the presence of representatives of governments created through coups d'etat, to favor the interference in the sister country and violate its sovereignty.

"It is necessary that the democratic forces of America impede this crime. It is possible that many Americans who work hard to achieve the independent development of our countries may not agree with all the aspects of the internal policies of Guatemala. But nobody with aims of freedom, democracy and national progress, can remain indifferent before the grim attempt to suffocate the just national aspirations of the sister country. As in the case of Mexico and the oil expropriations of LAZARO CARDENAS, the destiny of Guatemala represents today the possibility of constructing a Latin America free from oppressing ties.

"Havana, March 11, 1954.

"Signed:

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