

Document 14

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ROBERT H. SAYRE  
MINING ENGINEER  
BOSTON BUILDING  
DENVER, COLORADO  
(2)

June 22, 1953.

Mr. Sherman Adams,  
Presidential Assistant,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Governor Adams:

Thanks for your note of June 8, 1953.

The Communists have established such an air-tight censorship in Guatemala that I get no worth-while information from there, but I do hear from neighboring Honduras, which is desperately worried by their Red neighbor. Perhaps you would be interested in some of the information from Honduras.

They make the flat statement that Guatemala is the "First Russian satellite in the Americas", and that the three beautiful U. S. built airfields in Guatemala, one on each coast and one at Guatemala City, are ripe for Russian use.

The annual May-Day demonstration in Guatemala City was this year even more informative than similar things that I saw myself. The President and his cabinet stood on a balcony of the National Palace to review the parade and listen to the speeches for five hours. The placards and all of the speeches were the most virulent attacks on the United States that one can possibly imagine. These affairs are most carefully staged. Thousands of farmers and plantation workers are rounded up all over the country; railroads and all trucks and buses are commandeered to bring these men to the city and take them back; they are paid extra wages for the trip, housed and fed, so that it makes quite a fine outing for them. The outright Communists are really just a handful in number, but occupy every single post of importance or influence in the country and its foreign service.

The First Secretary of the Guatemala Embassy in Washington itself is a Communist, Alfredo Chocano. This is the identical diplomat who was thrown out of Nicaragua when he was caught entering that country with a suitcase full of Communist propaganda. For similar reasons, three other Guatemala so-called diplomats have now been run out of Colombia, Panama and France. They seem to be quite welcome in Washington, however, and Mr. Acheson at one time even planned to send John Carter Vincent as U. S. Ambassador to Guatemala City.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely  
*Robert H. Sayre*