

RS#06: Source 3 - President Arbenz's Resignation Speech

On Sunday, June 27th, 1954, President Jacobo Arbenz publically announced his resignation. The speech was read over government radio. Just how many Guatemalans heard the it is not known, since the CIA partially jammed its transmission. The text of the speech was not published in newspapers for a month after it was delivered. In the speech, Arbenz puts the responsibility for the actions leading to his resignation on the United States. The following is an official CIA transcript of the speech.

“Workers, peasants, patriots! Guatemala is going through a hard trial. A cruel war against Guatemala has been unleashed. The United Fruit Company and U.S. monopolies (*companies*), together with US ruling circles are responsible.... Mercenaries (*a professional soldier*) have unleashed fire and death, respecting nothing. We all know how cities have been bombed and strafed(*An attack of machine-gun or cannon fire from a low-flying aircraft*), women and children have suffered. We know how representatives of workers and peasants have been murdered in occupied cities... That was an act of vengeance by the United Fruit Company. We are indignant over the cowardly attack by mercenary US fliers. They know Guatemala has no adequate air force so they try to sow panic. They bomb and strafe our forces preventing operations. Today they sank a ship taking on cotton in San Jose. In the name of what do they do these things? We all know what. They have blamed their actions on the pretext of Communism. The truth is elsewhere -- in financial interests of the United Fruit Company and other US firms that have invested much in Guatemala. Time will show if what they say is true...My Government has been called Communist in nature. We have used every means to convince world reactionaries that what US Government circles say is untrue....I have decided to quit power, turn the executive over to Carlos Enrique Diaz, Chief of the Armed Forces...I believe that democratic political organizations and all other popular organizations should give him full support... Someday the enemy forces will be defeated. I am still a combatant of freedom and progress for my country. I say goodbye with sorrow, but firm in my convictions. These years of sacrifice and fight and the arguments of the enemy have not defeated me...I thank you from my heart for the support. Let peace be restored. Let the gains be kept. With the satisfaction of having done my duty I say long live the October Revolution! Long Live Guatemala!