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OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

March 12, 1969

Max V. Krebs, Esquire
Deputy Chief of Mission
American Embassy
Guatemala

286-75-037

Box 3

Folder 1PS-1-6

Dear Max:

The subject is the Mexican infiltration route used by the PCT and the FAR for obtaining men, money and arms from Cuba.

While this is an old story, it has acquired more ominous significance in view of the spate of reports that Cesar Montes and his forty Cuban-trained guerrillas have used it on so massive a scale, apparently without let or hindrance from the Mexican authorities. Deeply concerned about these reports, especially since they bode no good for you, Nat and the rest of our people in Guatemala, I met with our colleagues up the river and asked them if something couldn't possibly be done to persuade the Mexicans to tighten up on their side, not only down around Chiapas and its long jungle border with Guatemala, but up in Mexico City, the bottle neck through which this illicit traffic apparently funnels.

I am in haste to make this pouch, so will not cover in this letter the details of their comments, but their general tenor corresponds all too well with that of the enclosed letter from Henry Dearborn in Mexico City to Max Chaplin, Director of Mexican Affairs. In summary, the Mexicans are anxious to do what they can, but they cannot do any more than they are doing. I wonder if this is true, or whether it reflects the general reluctance to push or shove the prickly Mexicans in sensitive areas.

*Henry Dearborn
Max Chaplin
ATTACHED*

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND 9/18/07*
By *[Signature]* NARA, Date *12/18/95*

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Given this widespread reaction to my initial inquiries I must prepare my brief before going further, and I have little information to go on. As a first step, would you please ask our military attachés, Milgip advisor^s, Public Safety people and/or anyone else who can get the information to report on what sort of cooperation really exists in policing the Guatemala-Mexican border. That is important in itself, and would also enable us to evaluate better the validity of the contention that the Mexican Government is really doing all it can to cooperate with their beleaguered neighbors to the South. I may have missed it, but I do not recall seeing any reporting on this subject since the talks between Mexican and Guatemalan border guard commanders held in Tapachula in the fall of 1967.

In this regard it would, I think, be highly desirable to revive the periodic meetings of the Ministers of Government/Interior/Security of the Central American countries, Panama and the United States, which were held during the four years, 1963-67, for the purpose of exchanging information and establishing methods of cooperation. Bill Bowdler back-stopped these meetings as Deputy Director of Cuban Affairs and Chairman of the Cuban Coordinating Committee, and I am sure he would be glad to help start these meetings up again.

In January during his Central American trip Dave Powell asked Ambassadors Bowdler, Jova and Boonstra if they felt a continuation of these meetings would be in the interests of the United States. They all agree that it would be very valuable, if only to enable the security people to get to know one another so they could cooperate on common problems. Once this cooperation is established the Central Americans themselves might bring pressure on the Mexicans more effectively than the United States could.

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Speaking of Mexican cooperation, I wonder what happened to the four Guatemalans who ran afoul of the Mexican police in Puebla during the second week in September after stealing a Mustang from the niece of former President Avila Camacho. Two of the four, Manuel Sanchez Valencia and Carlos Perez Meste, were wounded and captured. They reportedly admitted to being involved in the Ambassador's assassination. Two others, Rudy Flon and Carlos Lopez, escaped. (See Mexico's 7016, repeated Guatemala City, dated September 13, 1968.) Have you ever received a report as to whether the Mexicans are still holding them and whether they were properly interrogated?

Warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Guy A. Wiggins

Enclosure:

Letter dated Feb. 19

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