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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA 1147
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Embassy's Despatch No. 1072, April 25, 1952

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 17 1952
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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SUBJECT: Cuban Ex-Police Chief Eufemio Fernández in Guatemala.

The Guatemalan press has reported the presence in Guatemala of Sr. Eufemio Fernández, formerly Chief of Secret Police of Cuba. According to unpublished reports of unknown reliability, Sr. Fernández is to be placed in charge of a small intelligence unit here reporting to President Arbenz through the Private Secretary to the Presidency, Capt. Alfonso Martínez.

Sr. Fernández reportedly arrived in Guatemala April 23, 1952 with a diplomatic visa issued by the Guatemalan Legation in Habana. The following day he left for Mexico, presumably to confer with exiled Cuban political leaders there, and returned to Guatemala April 28. He is reported to be living in one of the better residential areas together with Jesús Fermín González Cartas and Raoul Carlos Hernández, reportedly Cuban gangsters (my despatch No. 1072, April 25, 1952), and to have the use of an automobile belonging to Capt. Martínez.

Sr. Fernández' presence in Guatemala has aroused a protest from Sr. Francisco Ríos M. who states that he was one of the persons exiled to Cuba by former President Arévalo in 1949 and that he and his companions were met by Sr. Fernández on their arrival at the Habana military air base and subsequently taken to a hotel where they were kept under guard by a member of the Caribbean Legion. Sr. Ríos, writing in the independent newspaper La Hora on May 2 stated that individuals such as Fernández should not be permitted to enjoy the liberty of entering and leaving Guatemala at their whim for purposes perhaps hostile to the democratic system of the country.

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld

cc: Amembassy, Habana

WLKrieg:rd
REPORTER

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