

Guatemalan Documents Collection

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by E. Bishop



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Guatemalan Documents Collection

Span Dates: 1944-1954

ID No.: MSS35881

Creator: University of Pennsylvania Foreign Policy Research Institute

Extent: 60,000 items; 94 containers; 27 linear feet; 58 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in Spanish

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Microfilm and papers containing correspondence, minutes, financial accounts, and other records and papers of Guatemalan government agencies, political parties, labor unions, and private individuals, nationally and internationally, documenting the period of reforms and social and political upheaval in the decade before the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán by Carlos Castillo Armas in 1954.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ubico, Jorge, 1878-1946.

Organizations

Comité Nacional de Defensa contra El Comunismo.

University of Pennsylvania. Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Subjects

Communism--Guatemala.

Labor unions--Guatemala.

Socialism--Guatemala.

Places

Guatemala--History--20th century.

Guatemala--Politics and government.

Guatemala--Social conditions.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Guatemalan Documents Collection relating primarily to government and labor activities in Guatemala was given to the Library of Congress by the University of Pennsylvania Foreign Policy Research Institute in 1958.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1958. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings in this collection is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The Guatemalan Documents Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

Microfilm on sixty reels was received as part of the Guatemalan Collection and is listed and described in this finding aid. This microfilm is not available for interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Guatemalan Documents Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Guatemalan Documents Collection consists of material compiled by the Guatemalan Comité Nacional de Defensa contra el Comunismo concerning the period 1944-1954 and given to the Library of Congress by the University of Pennsylvania Foreign Policy Research Institute. Included are 60 reels of microfilm and approximately 35,000 paper documents that are mostly available also on the film version. The collection is organized in six series: [Microfilm](#), [Special Series](#), [Correspondence and Official Papers](#), [Minutes](#), [Financial Accounts](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The papers in this collection cover the period of Guatemalan history dating from the overthrow and exile from power of General Jorge Ubico in 1944 to the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán by Carlos Castillo Armas in 1954. They show the emergence and growth of political parties and labor unions during a decade of change, the sweep of social reform attempted by Arbenz and his predecessor, Juan José Arévalo, the struggle of Arbenz's government for survival, and the influence on it domestically and internationally of socialists and communists.

The documents are composed in part of both official and private correspondence from individuals in all walks of life, from the president of the republic to farmers in remote areas. Correspondence from government agencies is represented as well as the correspondence of political parties and labor unions. Correspondence between Guatemalans and individuals and organizations abroad, generally of communist origin, is also in the collection. Present in addition are minutes and records of leading political parties and labor unions, and financial accounts of the chief labor unions in the country.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Microfilm, 1944-1954](#)
- [Special Series, 1944-1954](#)
- [Correspondence and Official Papers, 1944-1954](#)
- [Minutes, 1945-1954](#)
- [Financial Accounts, 1947-1954](#)
- [Miscellany, 1947-1954](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
REEL 1-58	<u>Microfilm, 1944-1954</u> Microfilm of the collection. Arranged as received and described in the container list. Microfilm shelf no. 11,555.
BOX 1-27	<u>Special Series, 1944-1954</u> Enlargement prints of correspondence and documents of particular importance withdrawn from other series. Grouped by type of organization and arranged alphabetically therein.
BOX 28-72	<u>Correspondence and Official Papers, 1944-1954</u> Enlargement prints of correspondence and documents. Grouped by title of organization and chronologically therein.
BOX 73-83	<u>Minutes, 1945-1954</u> Enlargement prints of minutes of nine organizations. Arranged alphabetically by title of organizations and chronologically therein.
BOX 84-87	<u>Financial Accounts, 1947-1954</u> Enlargement prints of accounts of six organizations. Grouped by title of organization and arranged chronologically therein.
BOX 88-94	<u>Miscellany, 1947-1954</u> Enlargement of small groups of correspondence, documents, membership cards, telegrams, and original printed matter. Grouped by type of material.

Container List

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REEL 2	Archive of Correspondence of the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGT) A-P
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Microfilm, 1944-1954

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Correspondence and Official Papers, 1944-1954

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