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Ref: <u>TO 371/67952</u>			<u>84679</u>			
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# AN

# AN

4363

Registry Number AN4363/4363/52  
 TELEGRAM FROM  
 Mr. Sullivan,  
 No. San José,  
 12 saving  
 Dated Restricted  
 29th Nov 1948  
 Received in Registry 9th Dec 1948

Costa Rican Air Force; Disbandment of the Caribbean Legion.  
 Refers to San José despatch 57 (AN4017/436/8)  
 Gives translation of announcement in San José newspaper on 27th Nov. about aircraft acquired for the Costa Rican air force from the U.S. Gives the use to which the planes will be put, and the route by which they arrived.  
 Paper also announces statement of General Ramirez on the disbandment of the Caribbean Legion.

Last Paper.  
AN4354  
AN4322

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

AN 4386

(Minutes.)

This does not sound a very menacing force.  
 The news of the Caribbean Legion's disbandment is interesting. The legion was only about 1,000 strong, but being composed of exiled things from most of the Republics was as useful force & sufficient to tip the scales in favour of any Govt which employed it. The idea of these gentlemen who specialise in ear biting, throat slitting & associated forms of butchery settling in peace on farms is hardly within the realms of probability.

L.A. I. [Signature]  
 FOR [Signature]

J. L. [Signature]  
 10/12.  
 [Signature] 2/12

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INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM.

4363

En Clair by Confidential bag POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM SAN JOSE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sullivan  
No. 12 Saving

29th November 1948. R. 8th December 1948.

Repeated Saving to:- Washington, Mexico, Managua,  
Guatemala Tegucigalpa, Salvador,  
Havana. Ciudad Trujillo.

RESTRICTED.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 12 Saving of 29th November repeated for information Saving to Washington, Mexico, Managua, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Salvador and also to Havana and Ciudad Trujillo Saving to which two last-named missions copies of my despatch under reference are now being sent.

My despatch No. 57 of November 2nd.

Part 1. Costa Rican Air Force.

The following is a translation of an announcement which appeared in the San José newspaper "La Nacion" on November 27th.

"Two fighters and one transport aircraft for the National Army arrived in San Jose yesterday.

At 11.40 a.m. yesterday the first three aircraft of the National Army arrived at the international airport at "La Sabana".

The two fighters are modern, twin-engined monoplanes whilst the transport is a large aircraft which can be used as a bomber, for which purpose it is easily adaptable. Nevertheless for the present it will be put into service for Red Cross activities and for the transport of troops to places where this may be necessary.

The aircraft were acquired in the United States and have been flown in stages from San Francisco, California, landing en route in Mexico and Guatemala.

In order to avoid embarrassing the Government of our neighbour country of Nicaragua the aircraft flew 150 miles out to sea and at 12,000 feet when passing that country.

With the exception of Captain Boza the National Army will not have any established pilots but will rely upon the co-operation of all national pilots, who have offered their services in emergencies".

I was informed yesterday that, contrary to the Press statement, the two fighters had not arrived. They had remained behind at Los Angeles and my informant did not know what had happened to them. I believe one arrived this morning.

Part 2.....



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RESTRICTED.

San Jose telegram No. 12 Saving to F.O.

2.

Part 2. Caribbean Legion.

The following paragraphs also appeared in "La Nacion" on November 27th:

"General Ramirez announces officially the disbandment of the Caribbean Legion.

A colleague of ours, Roberto Castanada, who is a distinguished Guatemalan journalist, obtained yesterday morning the most sensational news of recent times when he obtained from General Ramirez official statements that at the end of the month the Caribbean Legion, which participated so brilliantly in the coup which freed our country, would be disbanded.

No further details have been received by us. Accordingly we will only publish information which we have been able to verify. Yesterday morning General Ramirez gave our zealous colleague certain statements which were immediately transmitted by cable to Guatemala. The statements announced the disbandment to which we have referred, and indicated that this step had been taken to avoid embarrassment to Central American Governments and to maintain peace in the Isthmus.

General Ramirez stated that the members of the Caribbean Legion will return to different countries where they will attend to their private affairs.

The statements obtained by our Guatemalan colleague, which will without doubt cause a great sensation in the American continent are an answer to the Editorial of the Guatemalan newspaper "Nuestro Diario" which was reproduced in yesterday's edition of "La Nacion".

The editorial reproduced in "La Nacion" from "Nuestro Diario" referred to a letter by Alberto Medina published in the Salvador newspaper La Tribuna "a few weeks ago" in which the writer suggested that the Caribbean Legion might serve as the tool of the Communist Party in Central America.

In connexion with General Ramirez's alleged statement that the Caribbean Legion is to be disbanded and the return to different countries of its members, it may be observed (1) that as those who still remain in Costa Rica are mostly refugees from the Dominican Republic they can not return there and (2) that nothing is said about their arms. The United States Ambassador tells me that the Costa Rican Government hope to place these exiles in twos and threes for work on farms but that he can not believe they will consent to such a future. His own guess is that arms and men will go to Cuba.

V V V