

From Lawrence Journal World, Jan 21, 1955, Lawrence, Kansas, sent by Annette in a letter, and indicating the political atmosphere in Guatemala at the time I was in that country.

Guatemala Roundup Pushed as Uprising Against Armas Fails

GUATEMALA (AP) — The government pushed a roundup of Communists and supporters of ex-President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman today after beating down an uprising aimed at unseating anti-Red President Carlos Castillo Armas. At least 100 persons already were under arrest.

Government troops held Guatemala city and other strategic centers in armed grip. Castillo Armas announced that 10 persons were killed and an undetermined number wounded in a brief clash yesterday between loyal forces and rebels seeking to capture Aurora Air Force Base, outside the capital. He blamed the Communists and Arbenz's supporters.

The anti-Red government—in office less than seven months—promptly declared a state of siege—modified martial law. But authorities announced they were in control throughout the country.

Machine gun-carrying soldiers mounted tight guard on military posts and strategic points. A 10 p.m. curfew went into effect in the capital.

A presidential decree said the state of siege was necessary to snuff out the "subversive groups" which "in connection with Communist elements disturbed public tranquility and by an armed action tried to overthrow the legally constituted government."

Press censorship was ordered but so far no checks were placed on foreign correspondents' dispatches.