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In 1954, the Guatemalan president, Colonel Jacobo Arbenz Guzman Bermejo (hereafter referred to as Arbenz), was forced out of office through a military coup started and encouraged by the American CIA. Three years prior, in 1951, Arbenz had been elected president of Guatemala (in the second universal suffrage election in Guatemala) and had started to implement popular reforms in the country. Prior to his election, wealthy landowners owned the best agricultural land – it was estimated that 2% of the population controlled 60% of the land. The American fruit company, United Fruit Company, was a major land owner in Guatemala, and controlled the country's only port. Once in office, Arbenz signed into law an agrarian reform bill that redistributed land to Guatemalans. He also encouraged workers to organize into labor unions. The land redistribution came at the expense of many foreign corporations, especially the American-owned United Fruit Company. Under the new land reform law, 71% of the land owned by the United Fruit Company was to be re-appropriated. Though Arbenz offered monetary compensation to UFC, the company rejected the offer. The land reforms alongside an increasing communist presence in Arbenz' government, placed Arbenz in a position of conflict with the United States. President Eisenhower believed Arbenz was sympathetic to Communists in the Soviet Union, so he authorized the CIA to isolate, weaken, and ultimately force out of office Arbenz and his democratically-elected administration. Representatives of the American government made many statements about the danger of communist influence in Guatemala while the CIA worked to organize a secret invasion of exiled Guatemalans. This overthrow of Arbenz succeeded and with the support of the CIA, Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, took power after the invasion and restored American property rights and halted Arbenz' reforms.

Primary Source #1: "Statement on Growth of Communism in Guatemala." 25 February 1954. Accessed 7 December 2012. http://www.foia.cia.gov/docs/DOC_0000916926/DOC_0000916926.pdf

In Guatemala the pattern of international Communist penetration is unmistakable -- to all who have eyes to see. International Communist tutors appeared at the launching of the labor movement in Guatemala. Today organized labor in that country is under the control of their pupils, men who are today avowed Communists and whose names are among the best known of all the public figures in Guatemala. This handful of dedicated men, banded together in conspiratorial secrecy for years, have now forged an open Communist Party which has emerged with astonishing rapidity as the most virile and flourishing of the four allied political parties controlling the Government of Guatemala. These men also dominate the most potent social, political and economic program of the Government -- Agrarian reform; they have developed a powerful propaganda apparatus; they have fostered innocent-appearing youth, womens⁰ and cultural organizations to echo their propaganda, to recruit and train workers for the movement and to establish further links with the interlocking world Communist network; and they have infiltrated a growing number of other Government offices.

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Primary Source #2: "Resignation Speech of President Jacobo Arbenz." 27 June 1954. Accessed 7 December 2012. <http://phil-ochs.blogspot.com/2009/02/final-speech-of-jacobo-arbenz-guzman.html>

http://www.foia.cia.gov/docs/DOC_0000920952/DOC_0000920952.pdf

Workers, peasants, patriots! Guatemala is going through a hard trial. A cruel war against Guatemala has been unleashed. The United Fruit Company and US monopolies, together with US ruling circles are responsible. ... Mercenaries have unleashed fire and death, respecting nothing. We all know how cities have been bombed and strafed, women and children have suffered. We know how representatives of workers and peasants have been murdered in occupied cities, especially in Bananera. That was an act of vengeance by the United Fruit Company. We are indignant over the cowardly attack by mercenary US fliers. They know Guatemala has no adequate air force so they try to sow panic. They bomb and strafe our forces preventing operations. Today they sank a ship taking on cotton in San Jose.

In the name of what do they do these things? We all know what. They have taken the pretext of Communism. The truth is elsewhere -- in financial interests of the United Fruit Company and other US firms that have invested much in Guatemala. Time will show if what they say is true, but there are those who claim that Guatemala is the cause of what happens. My Government has been called Communist in nature. We have used every means to convince world reactionaries that what US Government circles say is untrue. After thinking it over I have taken a great decision of great importance for our country. I have decided to quit power, turn the executive over to Carlos Enrique Diaz, Chief of the Armed Forces. All social conquest will be kept. I believe that democratic political organizations and all other popular organizations should give him full support.

...I took presidency with great faith in the democratic system, in freedom, in the idea that economic independence could be won. I still believe the program is fair. My faith in democratic freedom, in the independence of Guatemala has not been lost. Some day the enemy forces will be defeated. I am still a combatant of freedom and progress for my country. I say goodbye with sorrow, but firm in my convictions... Let peace be restored. Let the gains be kept. With the satisfaction of having done my duty I say long live the October Revolution! Long Live Guatemala!

Primary Source #3: "Radio Address by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles." July 1954.
***Guatemala in Rebellion Unfinished History* – Edited by Jonathan L. Fried, Marvin E. Gettleman, Deborah T. Levenson, and Nancy Peckham Pages 77-79.**

Accessed 7 December 2012 via dmpsprojectcliowikispaces.com/file/view/Guatemala+Resources.docx

"Tonight I should like to talk with you about Guatemala. It is the scene of dramatic events. They expose the evil purpose of the Kremlin [Soviet Union] to destroy the inter-American system, and they test the ability of the American states to maintain the peaceful integrity of this hemisphere. For several years international communism has been probing here and there for nesting places in the Americas. It finally chooses Guatemala

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as a spot which it could turn into an official base from which to breed subversion which could extend to other America Republics.

This intrusion of Soviet despotism [absolute rule] was, of course, a direct challenge to our Monroe Doctrine, the first and most fundamental of our foreign policies...In Guatemala, international communism had an initial success. It began 10 years ago, when a revolution occurred in Guatemala. The revolution was not without justification. But the Communists seized on it, not as an opportunity for real reforms, but as a chance to gain political power. Communist agitators devoted themselves to infiltrating the public and private organizations of Guatemala. They sent recruits to Russia and other Communist countries for revolutionary training and indoctrination in such institutions as the Lenin School of Moscow. Operating in the guise of "reformers" they organized the workers and the peasants under Communist leadership. Having gained control of what they call "mass organizations" they moved on to take over the official press and radio of the Guatemalan Government. They dominated the social security organization and ran the agrarian land reform program. Through the technique of the "popular front" they dictated to Congress and the President...

If world communism captures any American State, however small, a new and perilous front is established which will increase the danger to the entire free world and require even greater sacrifices from the American people...

At the...Tenth Inter-American Conference...They (South and Latin American nations) declared that "the domination or control of the political institutions of any American State by the international Communist movement would constitute a threat to the sovereignty and political independence of the American States, endangering the peace of America." There was only one American State that voted against the declaration. That state was Guatemala...

Despite the armaments (weapons) piled up by the Arbenz government, it was unable to enlist the spiritual cooperation of the people ... Last Sunday, President Arbenz of Guatemala resigned and seeks asylum.

In conclusion, let me assure the people of Guatemala. As peace and freedom are restored to that sister Republic, the government of the United States will continue to support the just aspirations of the Guatemalan people. A prosperous and progressive Guatemala is vital to a healthy hemisphere. The United States pledges itself not merely to political opposition to communism but to help to alleviate conditions in Guatemala and elsewhere which might afford Communism an opportunity to spread its tentacles throughout the hemisphere. Thus we shall seek in positive ways to make our Americas an example which will inspire men everywhere."

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With your partners, review the timeline of events in this Case Study. Discuss which event would provide “headline” news and an opportunity to give an overview of events. Agree as a group which event you will use as your newspaper topic.

	<p>October 1944: Middle-class reformer with the army force elections after a century of military dictatorships. General Jacobo Arbenz and Dr. Juan Jose Arevalo (later Guatemala’s first elected president) are among the revolutionaries. http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/arbenz.htm</p>
	<p>1951: Colonel Jacobo Arbenz Guzman assumes the presidency of Guatemala from Dr. Juan Jose Arevalo. Arevalo’s reforms included increased education, health care, and wages for workers, as well as limited land reforms. Arbenz promises to continue “Arevalismo.” http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-15383476</p>
	<p>April 1952: President Truman authorizes the CIA to plan for the overthrow of Arbenz. As part of the plans, the CIA begins to compile “hit lists” of communists to target for elimination. The plan was called off in October when it became public.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954_Guatemalan_coup_d%27etat</p>
	<p>June 1952: Decree 900 declares that idle land should be taken away from large landowners and given to poor farmers. The United Fruit Company realizes it will lose over 70% of its lands, which were intentionally kept idle to artificially raise the price of bananas.</p> <p>http://www.library.hbs.edu/newsletter/archives/2005-11-spotlight.html</p>
	<p>February/March 1953: Guatemala offers to trade United Fruit Company’s idle land for bonds equaling the land’s value according to tax purposes. The United Fruit Company claims that the land was undervalued and demands \$16 million.</p> <p>http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM19N5_United_Fruit_Company_Ne_w_Orleans_LA</p>

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	<p>March 1953: John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, Allan Dulles, CIA director, advise the overthrow of Arbenz. Eisenhower is eager to avoid a “domino effect” of communist regimes in Latin America. The Dulles brothers are on the board of directors of the United Fruit Company.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954_Guatemalan_coup_d%27état</p>
	<p>August 1953: Eisenhower orders the CIA to arm Carlos Castillo Armas, a Guatemalan living in Nicaragua. The CIA begins preparations for a coup d’etat. They plan to spend a little over \$2 million on the operation, which includes creating a radio station and planting stories in the US press.</p> <p>http://rvanbroekhoven.blogspot.com/2011_02_01_archive.html</p>
	<p>February 1954: The CIA plans to ship Soviet-made weapons to Guatemala to “prove” that the Soviet Union was shipping weapons to communists in Guatemala (Operation WASHTUB). Ironically, Arbenz later buys weapons from Czechoslovakia in May 1954.</p> <p>http://www.landgangen.se/forumsmf10/index.php?topic=15628.285</p>
	<p>June 18-27, 1954: The US Air Force provides cover for the Armas’ invading group of about 200 exiles; the US also broadcasts reports exaggerating their strength and the damage done in the attacks. Arbenz resigns as president when the Guatemalan army refuses to defend him against the invasion.</p> <p>In September 1954, Guatemala requires Arbenz to strip for a search as he leaves for Mexico (see left).</p> <p>http://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/2011/02/17/guatemala-1954/</p>
	<p>July 1954: Armas becomes leader of the junta ruling Guatemala. His government begins over 50 years of military dictatorships in Guatemala. The CIA provides him with “hit lists” of communist leaders and suspected supporters. Many on the list disappear.</p> <p>http://www.corbisimages.com/stock-photo/rights-managed/U1061729/carlos-castillo-arms-with-other-members-of</p>

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The event our newspaper will cover is _____.

Divide up the sources below. These websites, or any others you find, should appear in the bibliography section of the newspaper you will eventually create for this assignment (page 2, lower left corner). Each of you will read ONE to start.

Research Task #	Website Title/Description	URL
1	BBC Magazine: "Guatemala apologises to Arbenz family."	http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-15383476 Follow other links from this website to see effects of US policy or search website for other stories.
2	University of Maryland: research paper from doctoral candidate John Kirch.	http://imerrill.umd.edu/johnkirch/files/2010/03/Covering-a-Coup-John-Kirch.pdf is a lengthy reading with bibliography giving an overview of events and details about how to spin media coverage
3	History Channel: Go to the home page at www.history.com and search "Algeria."	Read/Listen/Watch at least three sources from your search results. Write the URL for each source down on this paper.
4	Indiana University: Dr. Antonio Rafael de al Cova's Latin American Studies page.	http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/arbenz.htm Follow links to different stories from this page
5	Encyclopedia: ask your librarian to help you locate two articles about the 1954 coup d'état.	Search for the following key words within the encyclopedias or databases: Jacobo Arbenz, United Fruit Company, Carlos Armas, Guatemala coup 1954, and/or the event your team picked.