

10-10-1990

Guatemala: Eulogy For Former President Juan Jose Arevalo Bermejo

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Guatemala: Eulogy For Former President Juan Jose Arevalo Bermejo." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4539>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Guatemala: Eulogy For Former President Juan Jose Arevalo Bermejo

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, October 10, 1990

On Oct. 6, former president Juan Jose Arevalo Bermejo died at age 86. Following the 1944 uprising that deposed military dictator Jorge Ubico, Arevalo returned from exile in Argentina. A former humanities professor, he was elected president in 1945. During his six-year term, Arevalo established a social security system, initiated land reform in the countryside, and attempted to incorporate indigenous populations into the nation's political system. Arevalo authored several books, including "The Shark and the Sardine," a criticism of US policy in Latin America. Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, who was elected president in 1950, sought to expand reforms commenced during the Arevalo administration. The Arbenz government was overthrown in 1954 via military coup engineered by the CIA. According to Stephen Schlesinger, Arevalo's "legacy will be that he was a shining moment in Guatemala's political history, a moment that was extinguished by the 1954 coup." Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer are authors of "Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala." Schlesinger said Arevalo was president during the "only time, really" since the country's political independence in 1821 that the Guatemalan government demonstrated compassion toward the poor and indigenous peoples. (Basic data from AP, 10/07/90)

-- End --