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Guatemala: Some Success Against Terrorists

Leaders of the Guatemalan Government are elated by recent successes against subversives and are optimistic about their ability to strike a decisive blow. Although past performances cast doubt on the capability of the security forces to follow up on the gains made, the authorities have clearly attained some momentum and have even tempered their earlier abrasive methods, which the general public found offensive and threatening.

Dozens of persons peripherally associated with the extreme left have been rounded up and some-

times brutally killed since the government assumed emergency powers two months ago.

The government's responsiveness to the public outcry against the abuses of authority that characterized the security crackdown in its early stages has earned some popular approval. Last weekend, for example, all roads out of Guatemala City were sealed off while the army made intensive house-tohouse searches. Even though the public was inconvenienced, the courtesy and consideration shown by the search parties drew favorable comment. Also, the removal of weapons from the residences of figures closely identified with the Arana government should ease fears in leftist circles of rightist immunity from the government's security program.

Whether the increased finesse and success of 25X1 the counterterrorist activity have really done more than expand Arana's supporting constituency should become clear over the next several months. Present indications are that damage has been done and is yet to be done to the Communist Party, but that the more aggressive and irrational Rebel Armed Forces could still be in fairly healthy—and perhaps dangerous-shape. Both groups so far have continually demonstrated their ability to bring off spectacular hit-and-run terrorist acts. Nevertheless 25X1 although the insurgents retain this capability, for the first time in many years the government is hopeful of success.

BRAZIL: The government has flown 70 prisoners to Chile in exchange for Swiss Ambassador Bucher. The group is larger than the total of prisoners released in the three previous kidnapings of foreign officials. These are the first Brazilian prisoners to be sent to Chile; previous groups went to Mexico and Algeria. Algeria refused to accept these because Brazil would not ask that it be done "on humanitarian grounds."

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OAS to Meet on Terrorism

The third special session of the OAS General Assembly will convene in Washington on 25 January in an attempt to formulate a unified stand on terrorism in the hemisphere. The recent abductions in Brazil and Uruguay will add impetus to the deliberations.

The meeting, expected to attract the majority of Latin foreign ministers, will consider a draft proposed by the Inter-American Juridical Committee (IAJC) in an effort to put teeth into last year's OAS resolution repudiating acts of terrorism. The IAJC draft classifies certain acts of terrorism, including kidnaping, as common crimes rather than as crimes of a political nature that would exempt perpetrators from extradition. The meeting therefore will have to deal with laws on asylum—a jealously guarded and widely used right in Latin America.

Despite widespread consultation among OAS members, no consensus on the draft has yet de-

veloped, and the success of the conference remains in doubt. Some countries, such as Brazil, favor a wide-ranging resolution applicable to all crimes of terror, including acts that have only domestic aspects. Nations such as Chile and Mexico are shying away from any strongly worded resolution and might prefer no resolution at all.

Discussions in Latin American capitals still reveal a deep division on a tangential issue—policy toward Cuba. A declaration publicized this week by four Central American foreign ministers strongly supported the continuation of economic and diplomatic sanctions voted against Cuba in 1964 for its support of insurgency. The declaration apparently was issued in an effort to head off discussion of the topic by the OAS. Nonetheless, a significant number of OAS members have recently made known their feeling that at least a discussion of the subject, and perhaps an outright change in policy, is overdue.

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Tupamaros Return to the Offensive in Uruguay

The bold daylight kidnaping of the British ambassador last week was an effort by the Tupamaros to regain the initiative in their struggle against the government. As expected, however, the abduction has had no effect on the administration's long-standing refusal to negotiate. A guerrilla communiqué early this week suggested the Tupamaros are willing to persevere in their waiting game with an equally stubborn government.

The Tupamaros now hold three hostages— British Ambassador Jackson, US agronomist Fly, and Brazilian consul Gomide. The terrorists had repeatedly scaled down the major demands they made for the release of Fly and Gomide last August but were stymied when President Pacheco refused any concessions whatsoever. In their communique this week, the Tupamaros finally withdrew their latest offer to release Fly and in addition made no ransom demands for the British envoy. Instead, they called upon the government to take up "the rejected road of negotiations."

The government's response has instead been typical of its stance in the half dozen previous kidnapings by the Tupamaros, dating back to mid-1968. Government spokesmen reiterated past policy; the President approved an increase in the reward for the kidnapers to \$40,000 and also,

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