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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
16 July 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin American Countries on the Counterinsurgency Critical List

1. Ecuador

The newly installed junta has announced plans to crack down on the leftist groups which have threatened to initiate guerrilla action and terrorism in rural and urban areas of Ecuador. The junta has already outlawed the Communist Party and, according to press reports, has arrested about 150 suspected leftist extremists.

2. Guatemala

a. Guerrillas in eastern Guatemala are still resisting the government campaign to eliminate them. Reports indicate that both sides suffered substantial casualties during the destruction of a guerrilla base on 9 July and at least nine army agents in outlying areas have been killed recently, either by guerrillas or bandits also active in the mountains.

b. The Peralta government is evidently concerned about the sporadic guerrilla action and the army's inability to eliminate it. On 8 July a decree was issued which enables the government to condemn and sentence without trial or hearing anyone accused of actions "against the public order or national interest."

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