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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 15 December 1941

SUBJECT Military and Political Opposition to Plaza Administration.  
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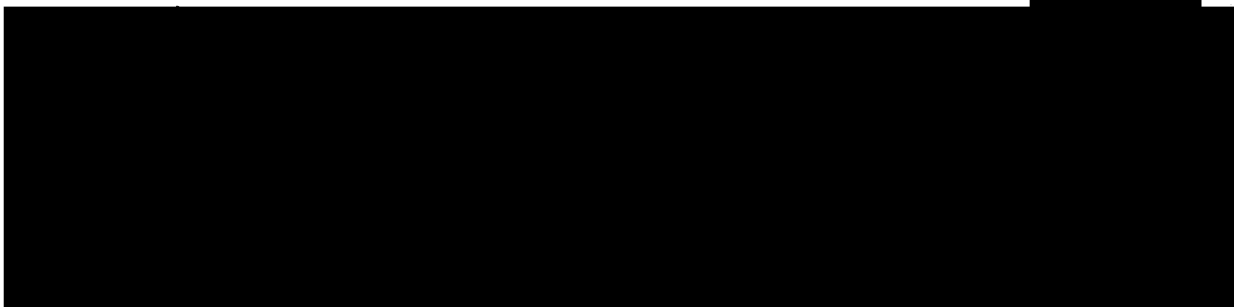
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]



1. There is increasing evidence of military and political opposition to the Plaza administration in Ecuador. The military dissension stems from various causes:
  - a. Friction developed over the activities of Lt. Colonel Edmundo Carvajal, Commander of the Air Force, and Manuel Diaz Granados, Minister of National Defense, who submitted a bill to Congress authorizing base pay increases for the Air Force and at the same time by-passed the General Staff of the Armed Forces.
  - b. As a result of this action, Lt. Colonels Felix Vega Davila, Cesar Alfaro, and (fnu) Nunez requested that they be placed on inactive status. Vega Davila was responsible for the crisis in the Air Forces since he personally urged General Jaramillo to stop the bill in Congress and to protest its consideration to the President. In addition, Vega Davila's recommendation for promotion to a full Colonel was not approved by Congress. Alfaro, Deputy Chief of Staff, has been bitterly opposed to Plaza and Diaz and consequently supported Vega Davila's views. Nunez, a General Staff officer, had been slated for inactive duty by Diaz for incompetency. Neither Alfaro nor Nunez was approved for promotion.
  - c. A third grievance was given as the objection to retired officers being placed on active status with a rank higher than those presently in the Army.
2. After consulting with President Plaza, the Minister of National Defense personally requested the three officers to withdraw their petitions and assured them of their promotions in due course. He also advised them that he had no intentions of recalling retired officers at this time.
3. Both Plaza and Diaz are well aware of Alfaro's agitation and intriguing against the government but they prefer to keep him in the Army rather than to have him become a martyr. They also felt that if the three officers were allowed to resign, other officers would follow their lead. Plaza and Diaz are also aware that the Special Investigation Board, presided over by Alfaro, for the investigation of all funds handled by the Armed Forces, has been used by Alfaro for political purposes. He hopes to remove Carvajal from his command of the Air Force and replace him with Lt. Colonel Bayardo Tobar or some other officer who would support his anti-Plaza clique.

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4. The political oppositionists are composed of two factions. The most active group is in Guayaquil. It is headed by Carlos Guevara Moreno, Jose Vecente Trujillo, Antonio Parra Velasco and Rafael Mendoza Aviles. On 18 November Guevara Moreno personally contacted eight Army officers in Quito to discuss plans for a coup d'etat, which, depending on circumstances, he believed could be accomplished not later than January 1949.
5. The second group centers around Colonel Carlos Mancheno, who is very pro-Argentine. Mancheno is aware of the activities of the group in Guayaquil but to date has indicated that he prefers to follow his own organizational plans without involving outside politicians. His following is primarily within the Army and among retired officers and soldiers. Second in command to Mancheno is Major Sergio Policarpo Giron, a Communist officer presently attending the Command and General Staff School in Quito. Numerous closed meetings of high ranking officers were noted during the last week of November. Most of this group were among those not approved for promotion during the last session of Congress. General Alberto Enriquez Gallo is also reported to be working with Mancheno.
6. Unconfirmed information also indicates that members of the Argentine Embassy may be cooperating with the opposition groups. The Cultural Attache of the Embassy, Dr. Trabucchi, recently held a confidential conference with Lt. Colonel Cesar Alfaro and offered financial assistance in organizing a coup d'etat. Trabucchi stated that Argentina has already selected Plaza's successor. He added that it would not be Dr. Antonio Parra Velasco, who although friendly to Argentina, was believed to be slightly unbalanced. Trabucchi implied that the Argentines would like to see the Vice President, Dr. Manuel Sotomayor y Luna, become President of Ecuador.

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