

*BEST COPY
Available*

6/17/98

~~SECRET~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

of Ecuador provides that the Vice President become President in the event the President leaves his office for any reason, the Conservatives feel that Plaza would go to great lengths to prevent Sotomayor from assuming that high office. They also agreed that, should Salazar actually betray or appear to betray Plaza, he would obtain the support of many of the political and military elements which are now conspiring against the government.

3. During the discussion mention was made that Salazar, as Minister of Government, was planning to create a strong military force out of the Policia Rural. The present leaders of this new organization, Major Alban and Major Armendariz, like Salazar, are members of the Masonic Order and would therefore be loyal to him. ✓
6. In concluding their conference the Conservatives stated that, should Sotomayor be denied his rightful ascension to the presidency, the attitude of the Conservative Party would be:
 - a. It would fight with every available means, even if it meant civil war;
 - b. It would not allow Sotomayor to be pushed aside nor would it permit any man to occupy the presidency whose police would be opposed to the Party's philosophy.
7. Jijon y Caamano stated that all the money the Conservatives had available would be used to defend the ideals of the Party and that many people would follow their lead. He further added that, if Plaza is thinking of betraying the Conservatives, he can consider himself no longer in power.
8. It was also resolved that all present should make every effort to find out whether Plaza was cooperating with Salazar or whether Plaza was being betrayed. It was stated that the Conservative Party would never support the Minister of Government, who was expected to return to Quito in early February.
9. It was decided that those present would meet again the following week to hear a report from Rafael Leon Larrea, who was to come to Quito from Guayaquil to report on a special mission which had been entrusted to him.

~~SECRET~~