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~~INFORMAL REPORT~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Costa Rica

DATE DISTR. 11 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Renewal of Calderon Guardia Attacks on Costa Rica

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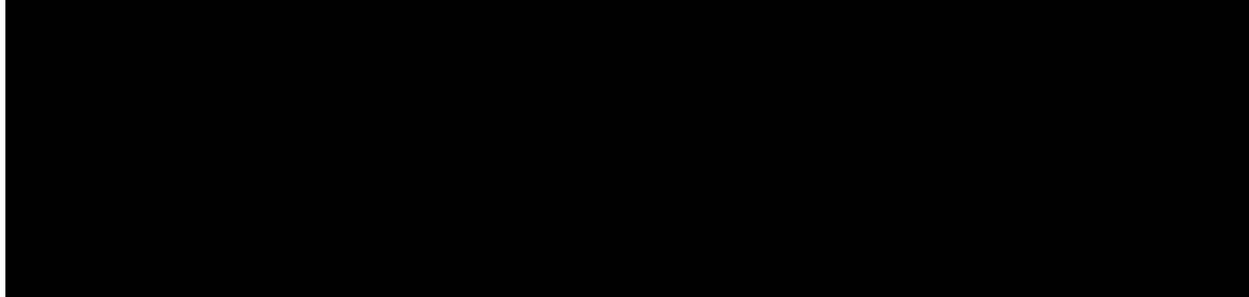
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Reports from Costa Rica continue to indicate that the Vanguardia Popular (VP) is completely disorganized as regards contributing support to any future attacks on Costa Rica by the forces of ex-President Calderon Guardia. The VP will not participate as a group, although individual guerrilla activity may be expected from Communists devoted to the Calderon Guardia cause. VP members were reportedly lying low, during the first two weeks of February owing to the danger of persecution resulting from a renewal of Calderon activity.

25X1X6

2. In a letter to Miguel Brenes Gutierrez, former Minister of Labor under the Picado regime, Manuel Mora Valverde, Secretary General of the Vanguardia Popular, officially disclaimed responsibility on the part of the VP for participation in any future attack. Mora, however, requested that Brenes inform junta President Figueres that such an attack was impending by Calderon forces with the aid of Somoza.

25X1A6a

Comment. Cooperation with Calderon appears to come from irresponsible, desperate, and mercenary elements who have nothing to lose. Responsible individuals, whether Figueres supporters or not, are convinced that neither Calderon nor themselves have a chance to gain from what has proved to be an unpopular insurrection. It would appear almost certain that Calderon is either motivated by sheer rashness or is being pushed along by Somoza. President-elect Otilio Ulate shares this view and has reportedly made overtures to Somoza looking toward some mutually satisfactory solution of the whole incident to be effected privately, without recourse to the OAS Commission. Ulate was scheduled to go on a Pacific Coast fishing trip about 12-14 February, and expected to put into port at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, and meet either Somoza or a Somoza representative.

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