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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 20 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT Political Unrest in Ecuador

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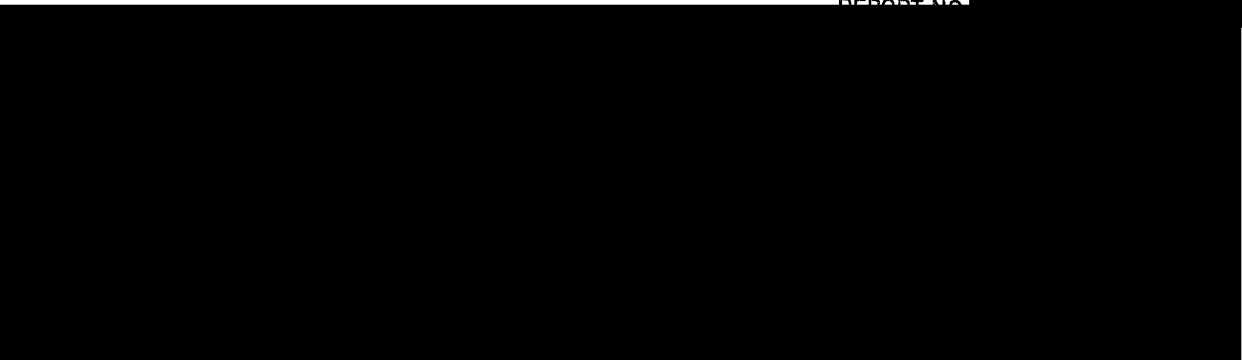
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DATE OF IN 25X1X [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT 25X1A [REDACTED]



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1. Government investigators in Ecuador are convinced that revolutionary plotting has almost reached the boiling point and claim to have heard that a well-armed group consisting of retired servicemen, active duty personnel and civilians are prepared to attack government forces at any moment. The government has adopted the attitude that a coup may as well be faced now as later and was anticipating action during the night 18-19 December. Minister of Defense Manuel Diaz Granados believed that a potential coup would represent the joined forces of the various opposition movements, notably that of Carlos Guevara Moreno and Carlos Mancheno, and possibly a group formed by Cesar Alfaro who is suspected of having activated a movement against the government. According to Galarza, Secretary of Congress, Alfaro is up to something. The Defense Minister also suspects Col. Felix Vega Davila of being involved in these plots.
2. Major Jose Suarez, who commands considerable respect in the Quito tank unit, was ordered by the Minister of Defense to lead that unit in any attack against the government.
3. The government reportedly is baiting the opposition groups by granting 24-hour liberty passes to approximately half the enlisted personnel in Quito. Plans had also been made to have tanks on standby status at the Mariscal Sucre base, but they were abandoned in the hope that the opposition would think that the government was not informed about the possibility of an immediate attack. The government thinks that a coup would break in either the Mariscal Sucre Artillery group or the Vencedores battalion since their arsenals could be utilized by insurgents to gain strength for an attack against the tank base.

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