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JPRS L/10490

4 May 1982

Latin America Report

(FOUO 6/82)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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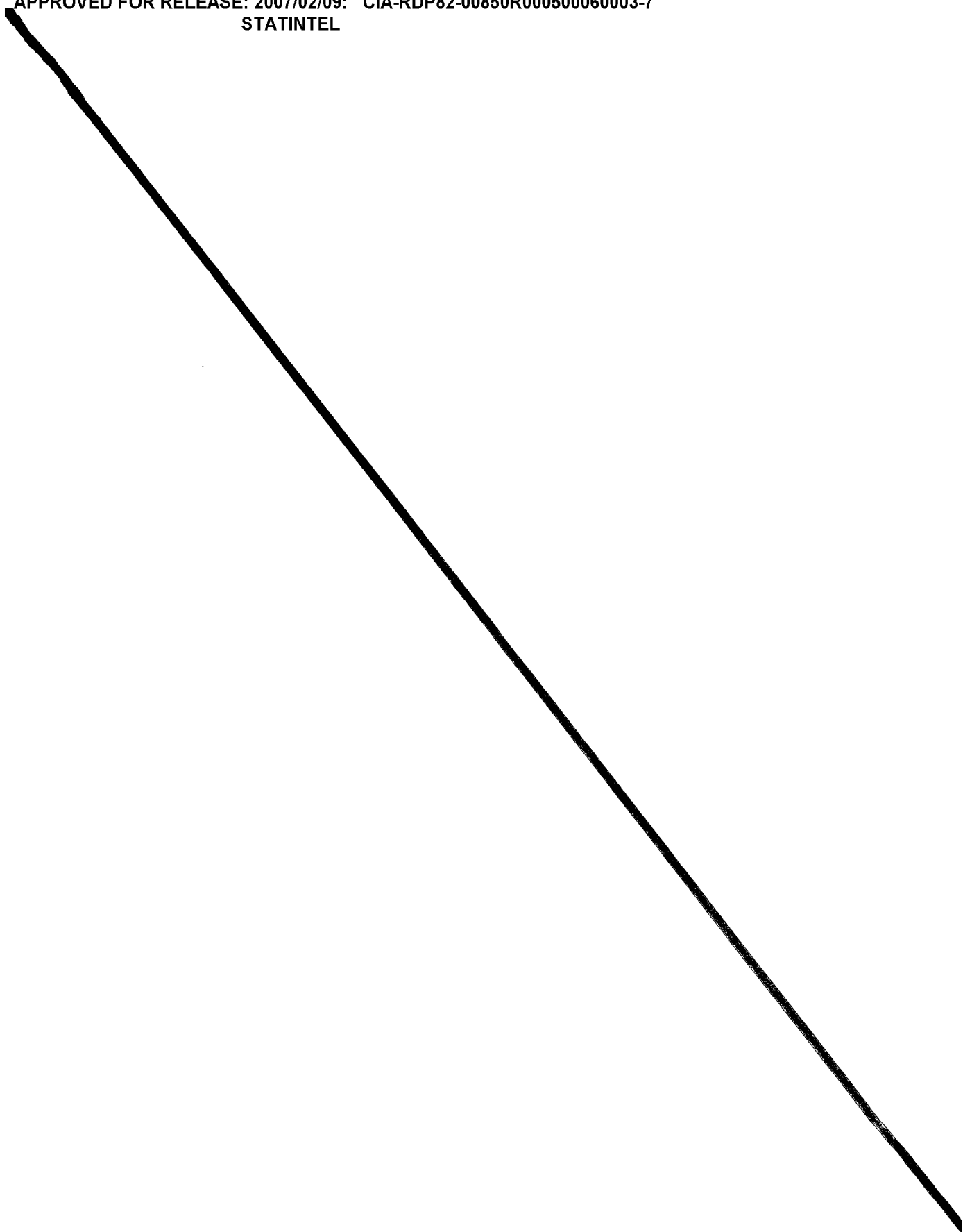
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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

LESSONS OF FALKLANDS CONFLICT--Brasilia, 19 Apr (SAPORITI)--"The Malvinas Islands question is showing the necessity for the navies of the Latin American countries to unite. The South Atlantic used to be a lake of tranquility, but now the situation has changed. The navies of the South Atlantic countries should unite themselves, modernize and strengthen themselves," Adm Eddy Sampaio Espellet stated here. The former chief of the Brazilian Navy General Staff also said that the lessons resulting from the conflict over the Malvinas can really only be weighed later, praising the position adopted by the Figueiredo administration on the problem. The naval officer also said that later there might be interferences with Brazilian interests in the Antarctic, which are today limited to the scientific field. Recalling the theory of meridians which would give Brazil a right to claim possessions in Antarctica, Sampaio said that the meridians (?passing through) the Malvinas coincide with the Brazilian meridians. This could possibly have future consequences for Brazilian interests. [Text] [PY200333 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 2253 GMT 19 Apr 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

DPRK DIPLOMAT ACKNOWLEDGES FRIENDLY RELATIONS

PA170307 Havana PRELA in English 2225 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Report by Victorio M. Copa]

[Text] Havana, 17 Apr (PL)--The president of the Council of State, Fidel Castro, attended here a reception for the 70th anniversary of the birth of Korean leader Kim Il-song. The activity was organized by the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Cuba, Yi In-shun, in the diplomatic mission of his country in this capital. Vice President Guillermo Garcia Frias and other top officials of the Cuban Communist Party and government also attended.

The Cuban state conferred on President Kim Il-song the "Jose Marti" Order, due to his outstanding role in the liberation struggle of his people; also due to his personal work in favour of the development of the fraternal relations between the peoples of Cuba and People's Korea.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, Yi In-shun underlined Cuban recognition of President Kim Il-song, and stressed that the Korean people appreciate it.

"Cuba has always manifested its most decided support and solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of Korea without foreign interference," he added.

He rated as very sincere and fraternal the relations of friendship and collaboration existing between Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Cuba and Korea are sisters who are marching united along the path against U.S. imperialism, said the Asian diplomat.

He wished the Cubans success in the fulfillment of the resolutions of the second congress of the Communist Party and came out in favour of the unceasing strengthening and development of bilateral friendship.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

OFFICIAL DENIES PART IN NICARAGUA CANAL PLANS

PA162252 Havana PRELA in English 2046 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Report by Jose R. Savall]

[Text] Havana, 17 Apr (PL)--The Academy of Science of Cuba denied United States press reports claiming it is involved in studies on the building of an interoceanic canal in Nicaragua. Gladstone Oliva, director of the Institute of Geophysics and Astronomy of the academy, told PRENSA LATINA that specialists from the institution are now in Nicaragua to carry out geological studies at the request of the Nicaraguan Government.

Since 1980 at the request of the Nicaraguan Planning Ministry, the Academy of Science and its specialized institutes are providing cooperation in different fields of interest for the Central American country. The assistance has concentrated on three main areas, meteorology, tropical agriculture and seismology. In the latter the Cuban specialists have worked with the Nicaraguans on seismic risk studies in important economic objectives and in human settlements. Nicaragua is an area of high seismic risk; in 1972 an earthquake devastated the capital, Managua, especially its most populous, poorer areas.

The Academy of Science official added that all the activity of the specialists from that institution who work in Nicaragua is part of the effort of the Nicaraguans to rebuild their national economy.

The report that the Cuban Academy of Science is cooperating in studies for the building of a waterway in Nicaragua is an evident provocation, declared Oliva. In carrying the "reports" the U.S. media are seeking to aggravate Nicaragua's relations with Colombia, which occupies Nicaraguan islands and at the same time hint at a purported "military threat from the Soviet Union and Cuba."

They also refer to the present Panama Canal without mentioning how the U.S.A. took over that area and the discriminatory conditions in effect until the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaties 5 years ago. And if they do not say that, added the Cuban official, they likewise fail to point out that the United States systematically violates those agreements and tries through all ways to continue to wield absolute control in the canal area.

The report denied by the Cuban Academy of Science is part of U.S. maneuvers against the Sandinist process and to create a climate of greater tensions in the area.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

FOUR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH GHANA

PA200008 Havana PRELA in French 2224 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Havana, 19 Apr (AFP)--The Cuban and Ghanaian delegations have signed here four cooperation agreements to develop several lines between the two countries. The documents establish a 5-year trade agreement, technical-scientific cooperation, the formation of a mixed Cuban-Ghanaian commission and the reciprocal free use of diplomatic real estate.

The texts of the documents contain the lists of articles to be exported by the two countries, general conditions for channeling future cooperation, the statutes governing the mixed commission, and matters pertaining to the ambassadorial residences.

Christ Bukari Atim, member of the Provisional National Defense Council, and president of the Provisional National Coordinating Committee, signed for the Ghanaian delegation.

Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade; Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; and Vice Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera, signed for Cuba.

Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and Jesus Montane, alternate Politburo member, were also present at the signing ceremony.

The Ghanaian delegation, which has just ended a 9-day visit to Cuba at the invitation of the PCC, had a busy schedule during their stay.

The delegation met with Cuban President Fidel Castrop Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuban vice-president of the councils of state, and with the directors of several state organizations [word indistinct] the city of Santiago de Cuba in the eastern part of the country, and the Isle of Youth, one of the richest citrus-producing regions in the country. Several hundred African students are studying on the Ilse of Youth.

(Ansa Asomoa), special adviser to the presidency of the council; (Kwesiamoako Atta), member of the National Committee for the Control of the Economy; and (Mahama Bawa), a Foreign Ministry official, were also part of the Ghanaian delegation.

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COUNTRY SECTION

DOMINICA

FRENCH HELP CRUCIAL IN THWARTING DECEMBER RAID ON POLICE

London THE CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES CHRONICLE in English No 1566, Feb/Mar 82
p 6

[Text] Three men were killed and a number injured in Dominica on December 19 when a group of 16 armed men tried to seize the Roseau police station and free certain persons held in the island's jail.

It is not clear whether the assault on the police station and prison were a part of an attempted coup or of a more complex plot aimed at seizing power at a later date.

INSIGHT is informed that the French Government played a significant part in assisting the Dominica Government to restore order and have been intimately involved in the subsequent security operations.

According to sources, the attack was probably co-ordinated through meetings outside the island (as with the abortive mercenary invasion in early 1981--see previous INSIGHTS). However, the difference on this occasion was that the Dominica Government appeared to have no prior information as to what was happening.

Piecing together reports (Dominica has re-imposed press censorship since the attack), the attack began at 3 am on December 19 when about 16 armed men stormed the police station in Roseau. The men entered the compound and opened fire on the police there, killing one and injuring nine. They then attempted to enter the armoury, but having failed to do so, took up positions inside police headquarters, firing on police approaching from the police station (for three hours) before fleeing. Simultaneously with the attack at the police station, another was mounted on the prison in an attempt to free those on remand on conspiracy charges relating to a former coup plot. During this attack a policeman and two attackers were killed.

According to sources in Martinique, the instigator of this latest plot was the ex-head of the now disbanded Dominica Defence Force, Major Frederick Newton. Major Newton was among a number of ex-defence force personnel arrested following this latest attack.

Following the assault, the police began to comb the surrounding countryside for those who had escaped. One man, who had recently been freed after

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insufficient evidence as to his involvement in the earlier coup attempt, was shot dead by police after an exchange of gunfire.

Former Premier, Patrick John, and three others remain in jail awaiting trial on conspiracy charges.

Opposition politician and leader of the Democratic Labour Party, Oliver Seraphin--who is Chairman of Patrick John's appeal fund--expressed "genuine concern" over the attack.

Among those seriously injured was the Commissioner of Police, Oliver Phillip, who was flown to Guadeloupe for specialised medical treatment.

Following the attempt a new state of emergency was imposed with press censorship, a curfew and the granting of wide powers of arrest to the police. Prime Minister Charles appealed to loyal citizens to assist the police as special constables.

Speaking later of the attack, Miss Charles said: "The whole idea was to make Dominica look unsettled...and to stop foreign investment (coming in), leaving people dissatisfied, because that is the only environment in which their plan could work."

The intellectual authors of abortive assault by armed insurgents on police headquarters and the main prison, were of a different ideology from her own right wing Dominican Freedom Party (DFP), Miss Charles said, and were receiving "payments from outside" to push this plan.

The Prime Minister declined to be any more specific, but she said that this group was also linked to another, whose aim was to have a more pliable government in power that would give the narcotics trade a freer hand.

"The intention...was to take over...and run the country the way they wanted to...the way the Klu Klux Klan had laid down...they would make legitimate all the things that we consider vices--marijuana, casinos and even the building of cocaine factories. This is where I presume the (Government) source of income would be," the Prime Minister said.

Miss Charles spoke of plans to improve security at police headquarters, and a two year plan to add 200 more members to the 300 man force through a scheme of intensive training.

During the attack Prime Minister Charles is understood to have been in contact with a number of regional and extra-regional Governments all of whom offered security assistance should it have been needed. But significantly, because of the island's location, it was the prefectures of Martinique and Guadeloupe that were able to offer the most immediate help.

Acting on the direct instructions of French Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence, a French military helicopter ferried arms and specialists to the island from Martinique and undertook other action designed to assist the Government.

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INSIGHT is also reliably informed that under certain circumstances France would have been additionally prepared to commit troops to the island.

It remains unclear as to whether the attack was a direct coup attempt as no reports of attacks on Government Ministers or on communication facilities were recorded. What, however, remains apparent is that those involved in backing earlier coup attempts--organised crime syndicates (with political friends) interested in using the island for drug refining and other illegal operations--have not given up. Neither, it appears, will they as long as those in jail act as a focus for such attempts.

But perhaps the most significant by-product of the latest attempt will be the strengthening of the resolve of regional Governments to provide adequate security and establish sub-regional or regional defence arrangements.

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COUNTRY SECTION

EL SALVADOR

'PRELA' REPORTS POST-ELECTION PROCESS, REBEL ACTION

PA140323 Havana PRELA in English 2305 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] San Jose, 14 Apr (PL)--El Salvador in the next hours is to have a rightwing constituent assembly while the United States tries to solve the election of the provisional president, in the view of Salvadoran exile groups here.

Thirty-six ultrarightwing members and 24 Christian Democrats, the party that shares the present regime with the armed forces, were elected on 28 March in Washington-sponsored elections.

Fifteen days after the balloting the Central Elections Council still had not released the credentials of the persons elected.

Behind the scenes, although often in public fashion, U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton pressed to have several Christian Democrats kept in the new government. What he apparently was unable to do was overcome the refusal of the four ultrarightwing parties to the presence of Jose Napoleon Duarte.

In the past few days the names of several politicians were mentioned for occupying the post of provisional president but the most repeated names are those of former Foreign Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth and lawyer Rene Fortin Magana.

Rodriguez Porth was foreign minister during the deposed regime of General Carlos Humberto Romero and is a member of the leadership of former Major Roberto d'Aubuisson's National Republican Alliance.

Fortin, a lawyer linked with the western region coffee oligarchy, heads the Democratic Action Party.

Also mentioned is Colonel Escobar Garcia for the vice presidency. He was Romero's minister of labor.

Despite the clash between the Christian Democrats and the other parties that took part in the elections, they all agree on stepping up repressive operations against the popular organizations.

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Notwithstanding Washington's large scale military and economic aid including anti-insurgent specialists as advisers, the Salvadoran guerrillas continue to demonstrate great operational capacity.

In the past 72 hours, reported AIP [Agencia Independiente De Prensa], the FMLN inflicted 25 casualties in El Playon and in Usulután.

Central American observers of the Salvadoran crisis indicate that the armed struggle will continue until the guerrilla advance obliges the United States to sit down at the negotiating table.

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COUNTRY SECTION

GRENADA

REAGAN STAFF ACCUSED OF MISTREATING JOURNALISTS

PA170030 Havana PRELA in English 2349 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Report by Arnaldo Hutchinson]

[Text] Saint Georges, 17 Apr (PL)--The harassment and mistreatment of which Caribbean journalists covering the recent visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan were the victim, are the object of numerous denunciations in the area.

The charges say that while carrying out their professional work, local press people were relegated, discriminated against and even physically beaten by the security personnel accompanying Reagan on his 7 through 11 visit to Jamaica and Barbados.

This treatment, they said, contrasted with the facilities for the U.S. journalists that accompanied the Reagan entourage.

The ADVOCATE NEWS of Barbados highlighted in an editorial that the local journalists were treated by the Reagan security staff as if each one was a potential assassin.

It reported that Barbadian press people were hit in the residence of Prime Minister Tom Adams when they tried to reach the same area as their U.S. colleagues.

The ADVOCATE NEWS stressed that the attitude of the Reagan security staff gave the impressions that the Barbadians were intruders in their own country.

It went on to state that in view of such incidents, it would be very easy to deduce that such an irrational attitude on the part of the North Americans has a racist origin since most Caribbean journalists are black.

Another Barbadian daily, NATION, joined in the charges and demanded an official explanation.

According to reports reaching here the Jamaican press was also the object of similar treatment on the part of Reagan's security people. Caribbean journalists who have arrived here for a regional conference to begin later today said that such incidents point up the unfavorable conditions in which the regional media must work.

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GUATEMALA

TURIN PAPER INTERVIEWS HEAD OF GUATEMALAN JUNTA

PM161509 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 7 Apr 82 p 5

[Interview with head of Guatemalan Junta Jose Rios Montt by Igor Man, 5 April in Guatemala City: "How I Will Change Guatemala"]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City--[Question] What are your plans?

[Answer] I have prepared 15 main guidelines [cartelloni] which I will be presenting and explaining on television in a few minutes' time. They are the fundamental points of the plan of action of the junta which, by God's will, I lead. First, it must be clear that authority is at the service of the people and not vice versa. In this spirit it is necessary to achieve--and quickly--a reconciliation of the Guatemalan family for the sake of peace and national concord.

[Question] When you talk about reconciliation are you also referring to the possibility of an "understanding" with the guerrilla forces?

[Answer] We offer the guerrillas two options: Dialogue or open war. We are ready for either: It is up to them to decide.

[Question] In your country much blood has been shed and unmentionable atrocities have been committed....

[Answer] One of our prime objectives is security and tranquillity based on complete observance of human rights. Before, long ago, we used to be distressed by the sight of a dead dog run over by a car, but then we became accustomed to seeing human corpses scattered in the streets. Now we have had enough. We have an obligation to guarantee human rights.

[Question] There is the tragedy of the Indians, the prime victims of violence from the opposite quarter; how do you intend to resolve it?

[Answer] By integrating the various ethnic groups. We are 20 nations in one. By reforming the economy, but establishing peace, by putting an end to the exploitation of the Lumpen proletariat, which has become a coarse form of repression, rebellion stems from hunger and underdevelopment: Ideology has nothing to do with it. Even Christ was a rebel, so to speak: He preached

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peace but expelled the traders from the temple and wanted social justice for the advancement of the poor and the tranquillity of the prosperous.

[Question] How will economic recovery be achieved?

[Answer] We believe in free enterprise, but we cannot accept excessive power. The state must exercise suitable controls.

[Question] In your opinion, what are Guatemala's most dangerous enemies?

[Answer] Corruption, the wait-and-see attitude, institutionalized corruption and violence. Numerous officials must be punished and the corrupt must be eliminated to improve the population's living standards. The contradictions of our society must be eliminated. Democracy is our banner so that the Guatemalans know what their duties, their responsibilities and therefore their rights are.

[Question] When will there be elections? [Question ends]

The general did not reply at once, then explained that before that a cleansing operation must be carried out, otherwise there is a risk of a Salvadoran-type outcome: "Priority must be given to the economic problem, to the people's participation. Do you realize how many illiterates we have--people who vote by making a thumbprint on their ballot paper? It is necessary to observe the constitution, place the legal system on new foundations, guarantee fundamental rights....A huge task awaits us, yet people want to move at supersonic speeds. I say, however, that though some people travel in Mercedes, there are others--the majority--who travel in carts. So we must adapt to the speed of the majority."

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COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS ATTACK POLICE; U.S. BLAMED FOR COUP

PA140356 Havana PRELA in English 2300 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] San Jose, 14 Apr (PL)--Two Guatemalan national police posts were attacked by guerrillas in that Central American country, in actions that took a toll of one regime casualty.

The Independent Press Agency [Agencia Independiente de Prensa--AIP] reported that in the locality of Ixhuatan, in Santa Rosa, heavily armed insurgents attacked the police station for nearly half an hour.

Regime sources confirmed the combat and disclosed that the guerrillas used automatic weapons and withdrew to nearby mountains.

Another group of guerrillas stormed the control post in Santa Cruz del Quiche, seizing numerous arms and munition.

Representatives of the Guatemalan ruling triumvirate admitted that the regime lost one soldier.

Meanwhile, a church organization blamed the United States for the recent military coup in Guatemala where an increase in repression is expected.

Members of the "Vicente Menchu Revolutionary Christians" Organization accused the CIA and the State Department of imposing a junta headed by Gen Efraim Rios Montt.

The Revolutionary Christians condemned the Guatemalan regime after setting off two "leaflet bombs" in the Calvario parish in the heart of Guatemala City.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ CALLS FOR HONEST TALKS WITH U.S., HONDURAS

PA122200 Havana PRELA in English 2052 GMT 12 Apr 82

[Report by Manuel Guerrero]

[Text] Managua, 13 Apr (PL)--Sergio Ramirez declared here that for talks with the United States and Honduras to be positive, with a complete result, there must be honesty and seriousness in the formulations of those countries. That position was set forth by the members of the National Reconstruction Government Junta of Nicaragua in an interview with PRENSA LATINA.

"We have always stressed that for Nicaragua the road of dialogue and understanding must be open not only with the neighboring countries such as Honduras but with the United States Government," he said.

He added that the negotiations must be global according to the formulation made in the United Nations by Commander Daniel Ortega, junta coordinator, and in Managua by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo.

Ramirez described as a positive step the visit made last Thursday to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry by U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton to speak of the possibilities of dialogue.

He said that it is not only up to Nicaragua to determine the course, and the mechanisms of negotiations with the United States but also to respect the global framework that the Mexican Government has given them."

The member of the junta recalled that in regard to Honduras, Nicaragua has unsuccessfully proposed meetings in the respective ministries of defense and foreign affairs and joint patrolling of the border.

He said that while there is a political and diplomatic correlation favorable to the Nicaraguan position abroad, this country confronts aggression and destabilization. He said that the situation in that regard is more complex because "we seek political understanding while we are also aware that the enemy hides an armed fist behind his back."

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The movements of personnel and arms from the United States to Honduras, where there are over 5,000 Somozist guardsmen and 16 counterrevolutionary camps, have been stepped up, he indicated.

The state of national emergency decreed on 15 March for a 30 day period will continue "so long as the basic issue is not solved through negotiations, and that is, that the United States must end its attacks on us, it must stop plotting to destabilize the Sandinist popular revolution.

"We cannot fall asleep, we cannot say that this is an easy situation, in fact it is a very grave one" he stressed.

Ramirez Mercado indicated that the circumstances that led to the state of emergency continue because "we cannot say that imperialism has finally decided not to attack us...or that the 5,000 former guardsmen across the border are no longer there..."

In regard to the possibility of calling a special UN General Assembly, he said the junta has still to decide whether or not to ask for such a call.

In speaking of the presence of Nicaragua at the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Kuwait, Ramirez said that the support it receives will be decisive.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

LEADERS INSPECT NORTHERN DEFENSE SITES

PA092319 Havana PRELA in English 2310 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] Managua 10 Apr [date as received] (PL)--Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega described any United States armed attack on this country as a "desperate, stupid act, doomed to failure."

In the course of a visit to six military units near the Honduran border, he urged the troops to stand as a wall to bar the way of the enemy.

"Wherever the invaders come, you must stand as doors of steel and fire" said the commander in chief of the Sandinista popular army.

Humberto Ortega highlighted the importance of the units in the northern zone because they will be the first to contain the enemy while other forces in the country will go into action later on.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Defense Commander Joaquin Cuadra and Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political directorate of the ministry.

As part of the preparations for defense several commanders from the ministry of interior visited key economic centers in this capital.

Brigade Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of the general directory of state security, visited the country's only oil refinery, a target of a counterrevolutionary plot to blow it up several months ago.

Cerna also visited the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, where in February an explosive device placed in a piece of baggage on a flight from Honduras blew up and took the lives of three airport workers.

Commanders Omar Cabezas and Olga Aviles inspected other centers of production, where they warned of the danger of an aggression and called for redoubling revolutionary vigilance.

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COUNTRY SECTION

ST LUCIA

LABOR PARTY LEADER WARNS OF U.S. AID PLAN

PA171716 Havana PRELA in English 2308 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Saint Lucia, 17 Apr (PL)--President Ronald Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative promises aid in exchange for political and military advantages for the United States, warned George Odlum.

The former foreign minister and leader of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) of Saint Lucia referred here to the recent Reagan visit to Jamaica and Barbados.

He said that the economic program under which Washington would grant commercial incentives and encourage investments in some Caribbean countries is part of the traditional policy of the carrot and the stick.

He also said that four Caribbean heads of state ran to Barbados just because Reagan was spending a vacation there.

Odlum said that those rulers did not take into account the negative consequences in the long term of the initiative, which, he warned, offers aid in exchange for political and military initiatives.

He contrasted that haste to go to Barbados with the abortive efforts for years to hold a summit meeting of CARICOM leaders.

Odlum called Reagan's meeting with the prime ministers of Barbados, Dominica, Saint Vincent, Saint Kitts-Nevis and Antigua-Barbuda a "real pantomime."

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END