

1997

Guatemalan President's Tactics Indirectly Benefit Communists

Ydigoras, now midway in his six-year term, has survived almost constant plotting from both right and left by manipulation of his opponents--distributing graft and favors and maneuvering them into fighting among themselves. In so doing, he has weakened the opposition Revolutionary party (PR), a strong, moderate leftist and anti-Communist party and the only political group with at least some degree of mass support. Ydigoras, now benefiting from a gradual economic upturn, is in a relatively strong domestic position at the present time.

The Communists, who probably regard the PR as their most potent adversary, are active in several competing leftist splinter parties at least partially fostered by Ydigoras. The weakening of the PR and its capable leader Mario Mendez Montenegro serves not only Ydigoras' principal goal--staying in power--but also the Communist objective of regaining control of the strong and widespread leftist-nationalist movement that formed the political base of the pro-Communist Arbenz regime of 1951-1954. Ydigoras maintains that his legal powers to control Communist activities have recently been weakened by Congress' watering down of anti-subversive legislation he had submitted to it.

Former President Arbenz, now the honored guest of the Castro regime in Cuba, is reliably reported to maintain contact with his partisans in Guatemala, though he is generally discredited among most non-Communist Guatemalans. Ydigoras is one of Castro's chief targets in Latin America. The Cuban premier has repeatedly accused him of aiding Cuban "counter-revolutionaries." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cuba's Complaint Against the US in the UN General Assembly

[The US delegation in New York reported on 5 April that it seemed likely that the Latin American states are prepared to vote against any Afro-Asian resolution on Cuba "which goes too far" and that these states in any event would consult with the United States before co-sponsoring or attempting to amend any milder resolution that may be introduced] [REDACTED]

However, the Ecuadorean Government, in a [REDACTED]

[It seems unlikely that any major Latin American country would co-sponsor such a resolution at this time. However, Brazilian President Quadros, in a memorandum to his acting foreign minister, stated that Brazil would consider on its own merits any proposal presented in the UN on the US-Cuban problem.]

Ecuadorean President Velasco has vacillated on policy toward Cuba, which is openly backing Ecuador in its boundary dispute with Peru. The Cuban issue has led to sharp division between pro- and anti-Castro political groups in Ecuador and provoked Chiriboga's threat to resign in early March. [REDACTED]

Cuba's efforts to induce one of the more radical African states to sponsor a draft resolution on its complaint against the US in the UN General Assembly have met with opposition from the UAR. [REDACTED]

However, the UAR and other members of the Afro-Asian bloc would probably support the draft resolution being circulated by Indonesia which calls for bilateral discussions between the United States and Cuba to settle their differences. [REDACTED]