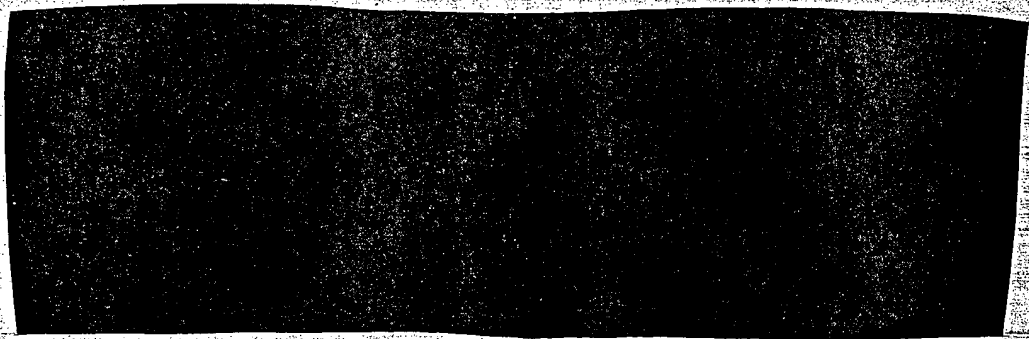


Top Secret

BOLIVIA: Military Difficulties

The military government is encountering splits in its own ranks and is still facing civilian resistance.



Press reports indicate the general strike is losing steam in downtown La Paz. Businesses in outlying areas remain closed, however, and roadblocks are keeping food shipments from reaching the capital.

Resistance is also reported in Potosi, Sucre, and Challapata, and the situation in key mining areas is unsettled. Factory workers in Santa Cruz are continuing the strike, and local military leaders are uncertain they can force them back to work because many troops have been transferred to other areas to maintain order.

Garcia Meza seems determined to avoid the fate of the leader of the previous coup, Colonel Natusch, who was deserted by the military last November when he failed to put down civilian resistance. Rather than step down, Garcia Meza is more likely to intensify the terror tactics his forces have been using against opponents.

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