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July 8, 1974

MEXICO

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A joint military operation against guerrilla leader Lucio Cabanas has not yet produced significant results. The action, involving about 2,000 troops, was launched on June 26 in an effort to kill Cabanas and rescue gubernatorial candidate Senator Figueroa, who was kidnaped with four assistants on May 30.

Mexican naval vessels are patrolling offshore from the area of Guerrero State where Cabanas is believed to be hiding and marines have joined army patrols in cordoning off the area. On July 2, army troops discovered an abandoned camp believed to have been occupied by Cabanas, but--despite unconfirmed press reports of a guerrilla ambush and other clashes--they have apparently been unable to make contact with the group.

Government officials reportedly have little hope the army will find either Figueroa, who they believe has already been killed by Cabanas, or Cabanas himself. While President Echeverria reportedly is considering stationing the additional units involved in the current operation in Guerrero State on a permanent basis to keep pressure on Cabanas, financial constraints may not allow it. (~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~)