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**INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

**THE INAUGURAL ATMOSPHERE IN GUATEMALA**

**DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
30 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM\*

The Inaugural Atmosphere in Guatemala

Preparations continue for the inauguration of the new president on 1 July, and many special delegations have already arrived in Guatemala City. On the surface, the capital appears normal. However, three bombings and the kidnaping of a Guatemalan lawyer on 24 June, coupled with reported plans for more violence before the inauguration, leave some doubt that the change of government can be carried off without further violence and terrorism.

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[REDACTED] the Communist Party's action arm, the Fuerzas Armadas Rebeldes (FAR), planned to assassinate several high-ranking police officials between 28 and 30 June and to continue its lucrative kidnapings after the inauguration. There have also been recent telephonic threats to members of Congress and some foreign ambassadors. Reports indicate that the FAR will temporarily suspend terrorist activities so as not to interfere with the inaugural ceremonies themselves.

Some extremist members of the right-wing National Liberation Movement (MLN) and several high military supporters have indicated that they will do everything to prevent the transfer of office. However, the MLN high command has repudiated these plans.

Neither the MLN extremists nor the FAR has the power or support to overthrow the government or to prevent Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro from assuming the presidency. Terrorism instigated by either

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of these groups, however, could contribute to the heightening of tensions already existing in Guatemala.

Government police and security forces have been reinforced to protect the delegations scheduled to arrive for the inauguration, and this burden has strained the already harassed security forces. Some preventive arrests have been made but Guatemalan security officials are reportedly not confident about the efficacy of the measures they have taken.

Since arriving in Guatemala, Governor Connally and his party have been escorted by security guards and there are no reports indicating that he or the members of his party are in any danger.

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