

EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

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LATIN AMERICA

29. Guatemalan army officers see Arbenz stalling on ultimatum:  
A group of Guatemalan army officers led by Colonel Elfego Monzon was pressing on 14 June for the immediate ouster of President Arbenz, ~~even~~ prior to his reply to an army ultimatum, according to a usually reliable source. Arbenz is said to have agreed to resign, but only on certain unacceptable conditions, and these officers believe he is merely stalling. (S CIA PD 358, Guatemala City B-3, 15 June 54)

Comment: Arbenz will have to make significant concessions to the anti-Communist army officers or risk ouster. He has been under growing army pressure to reverse his pro-Communist policies since as long ago as last November.

Colonel Monzon, minister without portfolio in the Arbenz cabinet and an influential officer, told a reliable source last January that "four or five more months of present conditions" would force army leaders to oust Arbenz. He claimed a majority of the army's officers would join him in a move against the government.