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ECUADOR: President Killed

President Jaime Roldos was killed Sunday in a plane crash near the Peruvian border, and shortly thereafter Vice President Osvaldo Hurtado was sworn in as President. Although a Colombian newspaper reported that it received two telephone calls from someone stating that Colombia's terrorist group, the M-19, was responsible for the accident, there is no official evidence to support that claim. [REDACTED]

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Despite high expectations, Roldos' record was disappointing, marred by a succession of political and military reversals. Military leaders expressed some dissatisfaction, but had evidenced no inclination to depose Roldos and return to power. They are likely, however, to watch closely the activities of new President Hurtado, a moderate leftist, who was opposed as Roldos' running mate by some hardline officers in 1979. Although he is critical of many aspects of capitalism and wants to improve the lot of the lower classes, Hurtado apparently does not advocate rapid reforms or radical changes. [REDACTED]

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