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C O S T A R I C A

1 December 1966

COUNTERFEIT U.S. DOLLARS SWAMP COUNTRY

Buenos Aires REUTERS in Spanish 0102 GMT 1 December 1966--E (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(Text) San Jose, Costa Rica, 30 November--According to a statement made by Col. Sergio Fernandez, Costa Rican President Joaquin Trejo's military aide, Fidel Castro has flooded the Central American countries with counterfeit dollars. The official claimed to have reliable information on these Castro counterfeit dollars which are entering the isthmus from Guatemala. He said that the operation is similar to the one undertaken by former German dictator Adolf Hitler, with pounds sterling during World War Two.

Fernandez then pointed out that U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents are already in Central America to cooperate with the respective governments in an effort to halt the mass invasion of counterfeit money. He added that four persons are being held in connection with the discovery. It has been proven that they sold the dollars in Costa Rica. Fernandez declined to disclose the names of the persons arrested.

Fernandez went on to say that according to official estimates, more than 100,000 counterfeit dollars have already found their way into the country. He added that the situation is all the more serious because many Costa Ricans, fearing a devaluation of the colon as a result of the country's current financial crisis, bought up U.S. currency.

(Editor's Note: San Jose Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 November 1966 adds that the Costa Rican authorities already have recovered 20,000 dollars in 20 and 50 dollar bills. Special agents from the U.S. Treasury have been sent to the Central American area to investigate the case.)

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VOTE GARNERING--Deputies Villalobos Arce and Corazo Odio are waging a personal contest on the floor of Congress for voter support. The deputies insult each other on past, present, and future issues, but during the last three sessions of Congress, neither deputy has said anything constructive or beneficial for the country. These National Liberation Party deputies have not assumed their responsibility to the fatherland and are only trying to gain new votes for the 1970 elections. (San Jose Radio Reloj Network Spanish 1200 GMT 21 November 1966--F)

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY--The Shell Company of Costa Rica is seeking authority from the Mines and Oil General Directorate to conduct a geological survey. (San Jose Radio Reloj Network Spanish 1200 GMT 29 November 1966--F)

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