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Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY
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CITE

DIST 29 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

7140

DOI:

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SUBJECT: ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TO
APPREHEND THE ASSASSINS OF AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON
MEIN.

ACQ:

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SOURCE:

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1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WILL DECLARE A STATE
OF SEIGE AS A RESULT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN
GORDON MEIN DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 28 AUGUST 1968. [REDACTED]
SAID THAT THE GUATEMALAN CONGRESS WAS CALLED INTO SESSION TO APPROVE
THE DECLARATION. THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DECLARE A CURFEW IN GUATE-
MALA CITY FROM 9:00 P.M. TO 5:00 A.M. AT LEAST DURING THE FIRST
DAYS OF THE STATE OF SEIGE. POLICE AND ARMY UNITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN

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ORDERED TO BEGIN A PICK-UP OF KNOWN LEFTISTS IN GUATEMALA CITY AND TO CARRY OUT HOUSE SEARCHES THROUGHOUT GUATEMALA CITY. ALSO, ALL FRONTIER BORDERS OF GUATEMALA HAVE BEEN CLOSED.

2. [] ADDED THAT BENADRIL TEJADA, SON OF JUAN JOSE TEJADA BARRIENTOS; PERCY DE LEON JACOBS, RUBEN JULIO LANDA CASTANEDA; AND "SUSTOC" (UNIDENTIFIED) ARE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE SUSPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION. []

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[] STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO APPREHEND THE KILLERS OF AMBASSADOR MEIN. HE OFFERED THE COMPLETE COOPERATION OF THE GUATEMALAN SECURITY SERVICES WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

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3. [] COMMENT: DE LEON AND LANDA ARE KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR, PRO-CUBAN INSURGENCY MOVEMENT IN GUATEMALA). IT IS NOT BELIEVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANY FIRM EVIDENCE TO CONNECT THE ABOVE MEN WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT CARLOS FRANCISCO ORDONEZ MONTEAGUDO, AKA "CAMILO SANCHEZ," A HIGH-LEVEL FAR LEADER, HAD BEEN APPREHENDED BY GUATEMALAN SECURITY FORCES. BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT THE ASSASSINS HAD ATTEMPTED TO ABDUCT THE AMBASSADOR, [] BELIEVES THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS AN ABORTIVE

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ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A HOSTAGE TO EXCHANGE FOR ORDONEZ * RELEASE.)

4. [] DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, AIR, CINCSO, CINCLANT. (ALSO SENT [])

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