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Editorial Board

LATIN AMERICA

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28. Guatemalan government claims discovery of new plot against it: On 2 June Guatemalan interior minister Charnaud MacDonald announced to the press that authorities had discovered the "best-organized" plot ever hatched against the government. He refused to supply details, saying that the investigation was still in progress. He said that the plot was superior in equipment and technique to any others, and that those so far arrested were "only the vanguard of forces abroad."

Comment: Announcements of the discovery of two previous "plots," in April 1953 and January 1954, were followed by Guatemalan allegations that neighboring governments, private American investors, and former American officials were involved. On these occasions, and again on 21 May, the Guatemalan government threatened to appeal to the UN Security Council if "the attacks against Guatemala" continued.

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Previous reports have suggested that an appeal to the UN might be supported by manufactured "evidence" of United Fruit Company or American government participation in a plot against the Arbenz administration.

LATIN AMERICA

10. Mexico to support OAS meeting on Guatemala:

Mexico's president Ruiz Cortines told Ambassador White on 2 June that he favored a meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the Guatemalan problem and that he had ordered the Foreign Ministry to support Washington policy "in every way possible." Ruiz added that arrangements will be worked out by Foreign Minister Padilla Nervo.

Comment: Overt Mexican support of Washington policy will probably strongly influence other hitherto uncommitted governments to favor such an OAS meeting. Mexico was one of the countries most resistant to passing the anti-Communist resolution at the Caracas conference, and in the voting abstained, partly on the ground that it would prepare the way for "intervention" in the affairs of other American governments such as Guatemala.

Padilla now favors the current Washington proposal for preventing further arms shipments and Communist travel to Guatemala and for the use of "moral suasion" to effect a change in Guatemala's pro-Communist policy. Despite the president's orders, however, he has expressed uneasiness about applying other pressure or sanctions.