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DIRECTORATE OF
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Colombia: A state of siege was declared last night, and disorders could mar the first session of congress when it convenes today.

The assassination attempt against National Popular Alliance (ANAPO) activist Senator Vives over the weekend may incite his followers to try to create disturbances in the congress and in the streets. Rojas Pinilla's daughter, Senator Maria Eugenia Rojas de Moreno, called on ANAPO partisans to "go into the streets and stay there" to force the government to declare Rojas the winner over President-elect Misael Pastrana.

The government has become increasingly nervous during the past several days. Security precautions around Bogota are extensive, and army troops have held at least two practice alerts in recent days. The army has also canceled a military parade traditionally held on 20 July in order to ease the burden on units assigned to preserve security and order. The armed forces should be able to contain any violence.

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Kenya: The government has passed a regulation designed to curb unemployment--one of Kenya's most serious political problems.

The regulation--requiring all employers to increase their work forces by ten percent by September--will be in effect for one year. Labor unions for their part have agreed to forgo wage increases and to outlaw strikes.

A similar measure introduced in 1964 was only partially successful. Employment went up, but unemployment also rose because many of those who flocked to the cities failed to find work but nevertheless remained. To avoid such an influx this time, the government has set up more than 50 employment registration centers throughout the country. Registrants have been urged to sign up in their own districts.

Although the latest program is an improvement over the earlier one, it is unlikely to relieve unemployment appreciably, and may only intensify this already sensitive problem. Approximately 100,000 applicants reportedly have registered for job openings, which probably do not exceed one third that number.

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Greece: The death of Foreign Minister Panayiotis Pipinelis is a heavy blow to the Athens government. Pipinelis was the only representative of the moderate, pro-royalist, political element to join the army-backed regime in 1967. He had given the government an air of respectability by urging such moderate policies as returning to parliamentary government, bringing back exiled King Constantine, and reaching a solution to the Cyprus problem. Some of these measures were opposed by younger members of the regime who continued to push for maintenance of the status quo. Finding an "available" replacement for him will be difficult. [REDACTED]

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NATO: The permanent representatives to NATO of the European allies agreed at a meeting last week that their countries will have to do more than previously contemplated to forestall or limit possible US troop cutbacks. In June, the European defense ministers, meeting informally, decided to examine the possibility of taking over all or part of US infrastructure costs, but they apparently now intend to come up with more substantial suggestions by their next meeting, now scheduled for 1 October. In Bonn, West German Defense Minister Schmidt, who has taken the initiative on the subject with the other allies, recently warned other West German ministries that they would have to share the budgetary adjustments needed to come up with a significant German contribution. [REDACTED]

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Ecuador: The government has received its first major setback in its drive to implement newly decreed economic and social reforms. Growing opposition from business, labor, and elements within the regime has forced out the finance minister, who was the symbol and driving force behind many key policies. To maintain popular support, President Velasco needs to make good on at least some of his social and economic promises. With the departure of his most talented minister, however, the President's own lack of administrative ability and financial knowledge could lead to administrative chaos from which those opposed to Velasco's recent assumption of dictatorial powers would profit.

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