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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

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9 July 1980

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Developments in Kidnap Cases in Guatemala

Since the kidnaping on 24 June of American Richard Newman and Guatemalan Carlos Tejada, officials of the Central America and Panama Nutrition Institute (INCAP) in Guatemala City, few changes have developed on the situation. (See the issue of 3 July.) A cassette recording and a letter dated 30 June addressed to the captives' families from the group which claimed responsibility for the kidnaping, the Partido Revolucionario de Los Trabajadores Centro Americanos (PRTC) were delivered to the American captive's wife on the morning of 1 July by the newly-consecrated Auxiliary Bishop Monsignor Eduardo Fuentes. The letter contains two new themes, namely, that the publication of a bulletin (time and contents to be announced) will indicate to the PRTC the families' disposition to negotiate, and a warning that "entities sympathetic to the families and INCAP" not publish pleas and testimonials. The cassette contained readings of a statement of previously issued demands and of a letter addressed to the acting INCAP director. Separately voiced statements from the kidnap victims are also included in the cassette recording. Both captives say they are being well treated and urge the families and colleagues not to contact the police or intelligence authorities, whether they be foreign or domestic. The American captive vouched for the well being of the Guatemalan official who had apparently suffered a nervous attack during the first day of captivity.

Additional notes from the captives were delivered to the families through INCAP personnel on 3 July. The personal messages assure the family members of their good care, which includes daily showers, exercise, access to medicines, music and reading materials.

U.S. officials in Guatemala have recently learned that the Guatemalan Government will not permit the Guatemalan press to publish a Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) manifesto to satisfy one of the demands for the release of Mexican citizen Jose de Lima, manager of the Swiss-owned Nestle Company who was kidnaped on 17 June in Guatemala City. (See

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the issue of 25 June.) This Government action may possibly present serious implications for negotiating the release of the INCAP officials. [REDACTED]

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