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Peru-Ecuador Boundary Dispute

Top Ecuadorean officials are expressing their fear of an increase in pro-Castro influence and strong anti-US reactions in the event of a strong declaration by the "guarantor powers" reaffirming the Rio Protocol of 1942. The treaty provides for the definitive settlement in Peru's favor in its long-standing boundary dispute with Ecuador. President Velasco, who has frequently stated since taking office last September that the protocol was null and void, is reported to have threatened to align Ecuador with Cuba to win support for his position in the Organization of American States. Foreign Minister Chiriboga, who has made a number of similar denunciations of the protocol, including one before the UN General Assembly last September, has implied to Ambassador Bernbaum that Ecuador could win Cuban and Soviet bloc support for its case in the UN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ecuador has solicited and received the expressed sympathy of Cuba for its attitude toward the treaty, which Peru seeks to enforce to the letter because of the favorable award of territory disputed for more than a century. [REDACTED]

The guarantor powers are the US, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. The current meeting of the representatives of the guarantor powers in Rio de Janeiro and the planned declaration on the protocol came as a result of Peru's request and Ecuador's provocative campaign against its validity. Argentina, Brazil, and Chile have expressed concern over Ecuador's incitement of the issue, which arouses extreme nationalistic sentiments in Peru and Ecuador. Both governments have virtually unanimous public support for their equally inflexible positions, and any retraction or concession by either would be likely to threaten that government's stability. Peruvian Prime Minister Beltran

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recently warned Chargeé Neal that any qualification of the US endorsement of a guarantor declaration on the validity of the protocol would bring him to the point of resignation. Officials in both Peru and Ecuador appear to be resorting to threats in order to fortify their respective positions.

Pro-Castro elements in Ecuador are relatively strong and include anti-US Minister of Government Araujo, the politically prominent mayor of Quito, possibly the leftist minister of education who recently returned from an official visit to Czechoslovakia to seek economic aid, a potentially strong pro-Communist student organization, the Communists, a number of prominent intellectuals, and probably the majority of the Socialist party. Araujo recently permitted the return to Ecuador of the representative of Castro's controlled international press agency who had been expelled by the former conservative regime. [REDACTED]

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