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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

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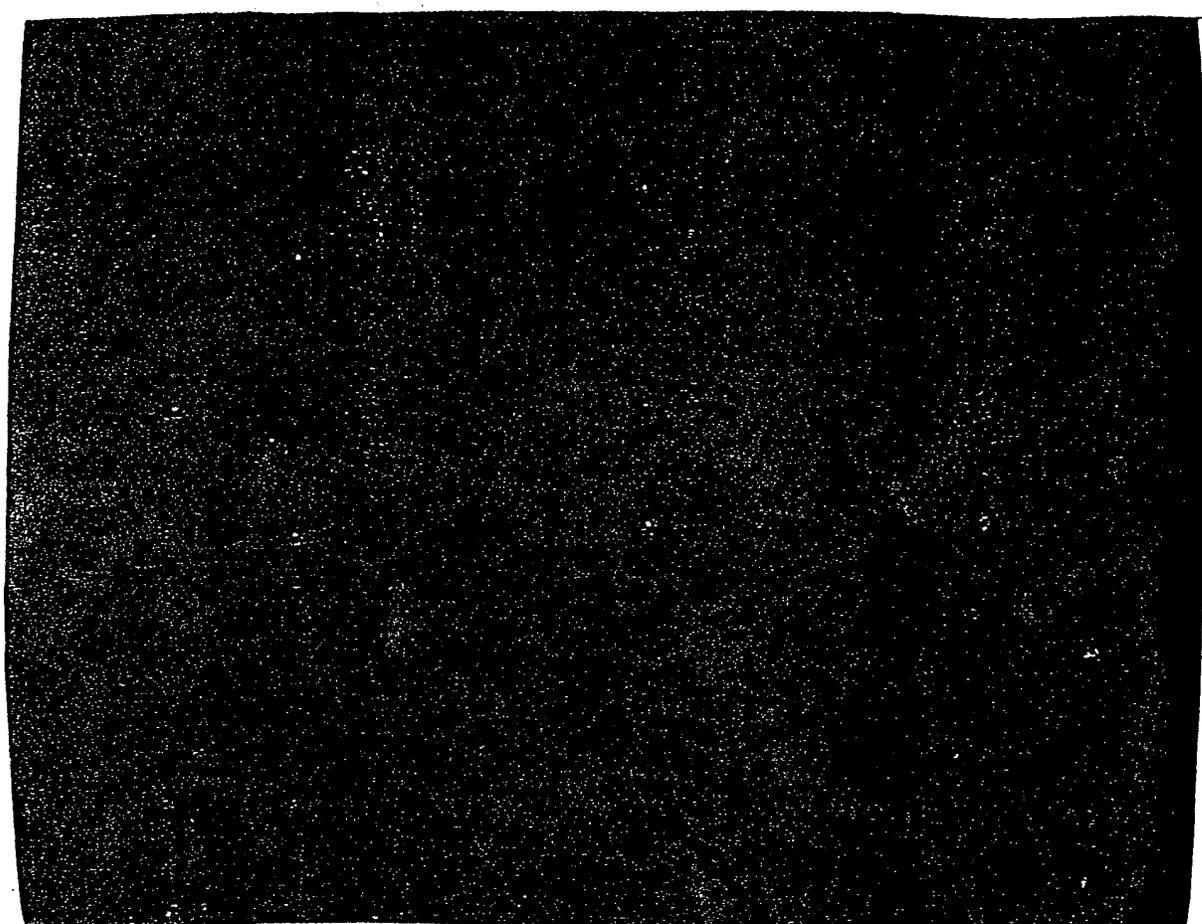
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NOT RELEVANT

GUATEMALAN ARCHBISHOP'S KIDNAPING TIED TO COUP PLOT

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The vice president and some retired military officers have been implicated, and some rightist plotters have been arrested. The extent of the plot is still under investigation.



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GUATEMALAN ARCHBISHOP'S KIDNAPING TIED TO COUP PLOT

The kidnaping of Archbishop Casariego on 16 March has been tied to a plot to overthrow the Mendez government by creating a wave of public outrage. The government's only reaction to date has been to upgrade the existing state of alert to a state of siege.

The extent of the plot is still unclear. Vice President Marroquin, leaders of the opposition right wing National Liberation Movement, and some retired military officers reportedly are implicated. Colonel Carlos Arana, the commander of the powerful army brigade in Zacapa, may have been involved as well.

President Mendez believes that extreme rightists kidnaped the archbishop, but says that he has no evidence as yet of any military involvement. Some rightist plotters have been arrested. Earlier this week the National Assembly passed a motion of censure against Vice President Marroquin for his involvement in the kidnaping. Leaders of Mendez' Revolutionary Party want to force his resignation.

[REDACTED] Defense Minister

Arriaga does not believe that Colonel Arana was personally involved, but he has been compromised because persons close to him may have been parties to the plot. Arana reportedly will be transferred from Zacapa.

In other developments,

[REDACTED]
the Communist Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) and Marco Yon Sosa's 13 November Revolutionary Movement (MR 13 N) have united. Yon Sosa has been appointed leader of the group with Cesar Montes as the number two man. Montes took over the FAR following the death of Luis Turcios in October 1966. Since then the FAR has suffered as a result of more active and successful government counter-insurgency operations and Montes' lackluster leadership.

Recent information also indicates that the terrorist unit of the FAR in Guatemala City has become operational. The terrorists plan to draw attention to the cities so rural units that are not yet operational can complete their training. Yon Sosa and Montes reportedly have left the capital to join rural guerrilla fronts.