

~~Top Secret~~

BOLIVIA: Status of Succession

The junta of commanders probably will ratify General Garcia Meza's continuation in power when it meets today or tomorrow. Following two military insurrections against him in May, Garcia Meza called on his colleagues to name his replacement by 17 July, but the dearth of available generals and the competing ambitions of senior officers have prevented agreement on a replacement. The general is bribing key unit commanders to keep their support.

Garcia Meza still has to cope with mounting dissatisfaction in the military, especially in garrisons outside La Paz. The regimental commanders in La Paz--the base of Garcia Meza's support--are not personally loyal to him, and they would quickly switch sides if another plotter gained widespread support or if Garcia Meza's payoffs were to dwindle.

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