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Echeverria Orders Military Operations Against Guerrillas

President Echeverria has ordered a military operation against guerrilla leader Lucio Cabanas, who still holds Senator Ruben Figueroa. Paratroopers have been sent to the area in Guerrero State, where Cabanas is believed to be. If the operation succeeds, Cabanas probably will not survive.

Last week, Echeverria is said to have rejected as too risky a proposed army assault on a suspected Cabanas hideout. The President's turnabout came after the government received a communique from the rebel leader. Echeverria concluded that Cabanas' "impossible" demands precluded negotiating for the senator's life.

Cabanas demanded \$4 million, the release of many prisoners, the delivery of guns and ammunition, and publication by the government of "solutions" to a variety of political and economic problems.

Figueroa, a multimillionaire political boss in the state of Guerrero, was kidnaped when he went to a meeting with Cabanas three weeks ago to offer him amnesty. The rendezvous was approved by Echeverria, who had earlier selected Figueroa to be Guerrero's next governor.