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During the coming months of adjustment to the new system some student protests are inevitable. If, however, the Faure reforms are implemented with imagination and skill, they are likely to prevent a recurrence of widespread student violence. [redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2002

15 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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Panama: Scattered violence against the new military government continues, but support for Arnulfo Arias is dwindling.

Students clashed with the national guard yesterday and Communist-led student leaders are trying to organize additional violence. The large Communist-controlled Panamanian Federation of Students has distributed leaflets in the capital denouncing the junta and calling for active resistance. Although these elements are not particularly sympathetic to Arias, they are using antimilitarist sentiment to provoke disorders.

The general strike and armed resistance to the junta which Arias called for did not materialize yesterday. Some party leaders in the Arias coalition believe that his cause is doomed and hope that he can be persuaded to leave the country in order to clear the way for a return to civilian government.

[Redacted]

They will probably desert Arias at the first opportunity.

[Redacted]

CIA  
[Redacted] 6/6/96

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