

NLTJ.001.069.002/19

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

DLA570
OO YEKADS
DE YEKADL 112 2861745
ZKZK OO ZSL NRL DE
O 121734Z ZYH
FM CIA
TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
STATE RCI
DIRNSA ATTN COMMAND CENTER
NPIC
SSO ACSI DA
SSO ARLINGTON HALL STATION
AFSSO USAF
NFOIO, MD
SSO CINCLANT
CNO
SSO DIA
YSNKQAC
DIA ISIC
NIC
SSO NEW YORK (PASS TO USUN)
SSO STRIKE (CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA)
ZEM

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]

RECEIVED
WHCA

1968 OCT 12 18 19

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2002

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted] CITE CIA OPERATIONS CENTER 03112
PANAMA SITUATION REPORT
(AS OF 12:00 PM EDT)

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

1. NO SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO LAST NIGHT'S MILITARY OUSTER OF PRESIDENT ARIAS HAD DEVELOPED AS OF 11:00 AM EDT.
2. ARIAS, HIS CABINET, AND A NUMBER OF HIS LEADING SUPPORTERS HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN THE CANAL ZONE.
3. GENERAL VALLARINO IS ALSO IN THE ZONE, WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT PRESENT. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT HE WAS NOT IN ON THE TAKE-OVER AND THAT GUARD LEADERS PLAN TO EXCLUDE HIM FROM THE JUNTA. CONFUSION STILL EXISTS ABOUT THE PLANS OF THE MILITARY LEADERS. ALTHOUGH NATIONAL GUARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LT. COLONEL TORRIJOS APPEARS TO BE A KEY FORCE BEHIND THE MOVE, THE GUARD HAS ISSUED A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT CLAIMING THAT A PROVISIONAL MILITARY JUNTA HAS BEEN FORMED, HEADED BY COLONELS PINILLA, URRUTIA, AND HASSAN. URRUTIA, WHO HAD BEEN NAMED AS VALLARINO'S SUCCESSOR YESTERDAY, WAS INITIALLY REPORTED TO BE UNDER ARREST AND MAY HAVE JOINED THE DISSIDENTS AFTER THEY HAD ESTABLISHED DE FACTO CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY. THE COUP LEADERS HAVE ASKED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT RAUL ARANGO TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY, BUT THUS FAR HE HAS REFUSED.

FROM QUICK COPY

4. LITTLE PUBLICITY ON LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS HAS REACHED THE PUBLIC, WHICH PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE LIMITED REACTION FROM ARIAS' FOLLOWERS. ARIAS, HOWEVER, HAS ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE JUNTA TO STEP DOWN AND IS HOPEFUL THAT RESISTANCE WILL DEVELOP LATER TODAY. WITH ARIAS AND MOST OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE ZONE, THERE IS SOME DANGER THAT AN OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE COULD SPREAD ALONG THE ZONE'S BORDER SLUM AREAS WHERE ARIAS' HAS A LARGE FOLLOWING.

5. COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR ARMED RESISTANCE TO THE GUARD, BUT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO START SERIOUS TROUBLE UNLESS LARGE CROWDS OF ARIAS SUPPORTERS START THE BALL ROLLING. THE COMMUNISTS ARE SMALL IN NUMBERS, UNORGANIZED, AND GENERALLY FACTIONALIZED. THE GUARD WILL PROBABLY TRY TO ROUND UP MAJOR TROUBLEMAKERS, BUT COMMUNIST STUDENT LEADERS MAY ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE SPORADIC TERRORISM AND RIOTING IF SIGNIFICANT AGITATION AGAINST THE JUNTA BEGINS. STUDENT ELEMENTS ARE ALSO UNORGANIZED AND FACTIONALIZED, BUT HAVE A PROVEN ABILITY TO INCITE DISORDERS IN THE LOWER-CLASS DISTRICTS OF THE CAPITAL.

GP-1

475

~~SECRET~~

EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

NNNN

REMOVED FROM QUICK COPY