

## EXCERPTS FROM CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

23. Comment on the Guatemalan negotiations: The new Guatemalan military junta headed by Colonel Elfege Monzon has arranged through American ambassador Peurifoy and the Salvadoran government to enter into negotiations with rebel leader Castillo Armas designed to work out terms for a peace settlement.

The negotiations are tentatively scheduled to take place in San Salvador beginning at noon on 30 June. The junta has asked the papal nuncio in Guatemala to act as an impartial witness at the proceedings.

Meanwhile both government and rebel radios in Guatemala have announced a cease-fire.

Castillo Armas has reportedly stipulated that his consent to enter into negotiations does not obligate him to come to any agreement. The two sides are, however, believed predisposed to reach a settlement. There are reports that one and possibly both of Monzon's fellow junta members are favorably inclined toward Castillo Armas.

Monzon himself, though a cabinet minister in the Arbenz regime, has long been considered strongly anti-Communist. A few hours after becoming interior minister in the short-lived junta headed by Colonel Carlos Enrique Diaz, Monzon ordered the arrest of all known Communist leaders. Many of these are now reported to have found asylum in the Argentine, Chilean and Mexican embassies in Guatemala City. (Factual data from S CIA PD 543, Guatemala City B-2, B-3, 30 June; S Guatemala City 1133 and 1140, 23 and 29 June; FBIS Guatemala City and San Salvador, 29 June 54)

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