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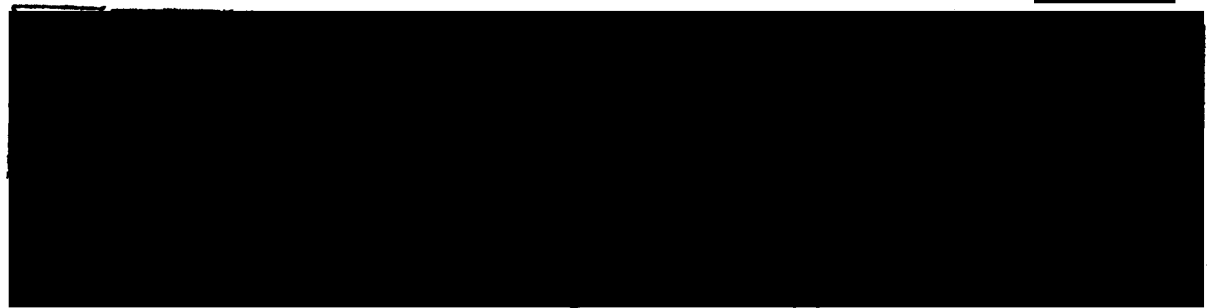
COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Possible Resignation of Minister of Government

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF IN



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B-2 1. Eduardo Salazar Gomez, newly designated Ecuadoran Minister of Government who is at present in Cuba, wrote to a friend, Francisco Illescas Barreiro, that he plans to return to Ecuador within a short time and will then resign his position. He stated that he will first ask the President for the resignations of the Minister of Public Works, Alberto Acosta Saberon; the Minister of Finance, Carlos Martinez Quirola; the Minister of Foreign Relations, Neftali Ponce; and the Minister of Defense, Manuel Diaz Granados. He does not expect the President to accede to this request, and he will then be able to offer his own resignation. He will base his request for these resignations upon his opinion that Acosta Saberon is an indecisive character; that Martinez Quirola is working for and protecting the interests of the discredited Ramon Gonzalez Artigas; that Ponce has little prestige in Washington and is responsible for the employment of leftists; and that Diaz Granados, although active in carrying out his duties, is not really loyal to Plaza and would not support the administration in a real crisis.

2. In the same letter Salazar claimed that there was a complete lack of collaboration on the part of the organized political parties and that there was a considerable amount of social ferment which could easily result in a series of strikes throughout the country. He stated that the Foreign Ministry was "the propaganda center of the Ecuadoran Communists" and objected to the influence exercised therein by leftists.

3. In private conversations in Quito it is being stated reservedly that Salazar will resign from the Cabinet without returning to Ecuador. In such an event, the President will appoint the present Minister of National Defense to the post of Minister of Government and reappoint Manuel Navarro to his former post as Minister of National Defense.

C-3 4. It is said in Guayaquil that Salazar has been unavoidably detained in Cuba because his former company in Havana is undergoing a financial reorganization, and he is obliged to remain in order to interview personally many of the major stockholders. [redacted] who recently had a long, private conversation with Salazar in Cuba stated that Salazar said he would return to Ecuador and would instigate reform measures. If his proposals were not accepted, he would then resign.

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5. With regard to the numerous press stories that Salazar intended to resign from

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his Cabinet position, a fairly reliable source in Guayaquil stated that this report came directly from Miguel Albornoz, Secretary General of Public Administration. This information was accepted as bona fide in view of the fact that the President has in the past used Albornoz to release unofficial information to the press.

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