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# Latin America Report

(FOUO 26/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 'PRELA' Comments on Causes for Attack on Sadat<br>(Mary Simon; PRELA, 6 Oct 81) .....              | 1 |
| Wounded Ambassador to Egypt Comments on Attack<br>(Rafael Borges; PRELA, 10 Oct 81) .....          | 2 |
| Foreign Trade Minister Carbisas Visits Bulgaria<br>(Miguel Lozano; PRELA, 28 Sep 81) .....         | 4 |
| U.S. Military Maneuvers in Caribbean Scored<br>(Ivonne Pastor Parra; PRELA, 11 Oct 81) .....       | 6 |
| CIA Accused of Operating Subversive Camps in Honduras<br>(Ana Leonor Diaz; PRELA, 15 Oct 81) ..... | 8 |

HONDURAS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| U.S., Honduras Accused in Plot Against Rebels<br>(PRELA, 22 Sep 81) ..... | 10 |
|---|----|

GUATEMALA

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Briefs<br>Bomb Explosions ..... | 11 |
|---------------------------------|----|

NICARAGUA

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Tomas Borge Thanks Lopez Portillo for Support<br>(Jorge Timossi; PRELA, 24 Sep 81) .....         | 12 |
| Interview With Members of Anti-Imperialist Tribunal<br>(Eloy Concepcion; PRELA, 20 Sep 81) ..... | 14 |

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

'PRELA' COMMENTS ON CAUSES FOR ATTACK ON SADAT

PA070340 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1602 GMT 6 Oct 81

[Commentary by Mary Simon]

[Excerpt] The attack today on Anwar al-Sadat confirms the existence of an ample opposition movement to the policy of submission begun by the Egyptian President when he recognized the Zionist state in 1977.

It was not by chance that "victory day" served a group of Egyptian soldiers to attack the man, who after having arrogated the succession of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, led the country to a strategic military alliance with the United States and Israel.

The traditional 6 October parade commemorating one of the most outstanding moments in Egypt's history, when it supported the Arab and Palestine cause and confronted the Zionists had this year as a "main attraction" an exhibition of some of the modern equipment supplied by Washington to facilitate Cairo's military presence in the region.

Therefore, paradoxically, it was from among the U.S. M60A3 tanks on parade, that the attacking military group appeared.

Today's events have special importance following a month of extreme repression against the opposition forces in Egypt, due to marked religious differences. In August al-Sadat accused the church hierarchy, and especially the Orthodox Copt Church, of attacking national stability.

This accusation provoked demonstrations on 3 August in Cairo, where thousands of Muslim, Coptic demonstrators and opposition leaders, marched in the streets protesting the Camp David policy and the increased cost of living.

The repression which rapidly extended to the leadership of the Socialist Labor Party, the National Progressive Unionist Party, newsmen, lawyers and other sectors opposed to the presidential line, caused the arrest of over 5,000 persons.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

WOUNDED AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT COMMENTS ON ATTACK

PA102312 Havana PRELA in English 2010 GMT 10 Oct 81

[By Rafael Borges]

[Text] Berlin, 11 Oct (PL)--The Cuban ambassador to Cairo, Domingo Garcia, wounded in the shoulder during the attack in which Anwar al-Sadat was mortally wounded, stated that this year's parade for the fourth Arab-Israeli war took place in the middle of extreme security measures.

Garcia, who was brought here to the hospital, where he is recovering, agreed to give PRENSA LATINA details of the happenings.

The Cuban official said that this year, the adoption of exceptional precautions were noted in the preparations for that commemoration.

He manifested that this year the heads of diplomatic missions when attending such ceremonies were not only given the traditional pass and the sticker for their autos, but there was a triple control of their documents, before they were able to go up to the reviewing stand.

Also, on the stairs leading to the reviewing stand, in the diplomats wing, their photographic cameras were inspected and the shutters released.

This detail, he stated, was commented with other colleagues because not only cameras were inspected, but cases containing binoculars or other objects where a weapon could be concealed.

The adoption of the measures mentioned by me, he went on, was also noted at the beginning of the ceremony itself, in which al-Sadat should turn, salute the troops, read the Koran and the defense minister would deliver his speech.

Apart from this, the 6 October parade, after the traditional salute to those who fell in that war, opened with some innovations consisting in the intervention of paratroopers, demonstration of assault positions in front of the reviewing stand and the display of the most recent armaments acquired by Egypt in the United States.

As to the events that cost the life of al-Sadat, Ambassador Garcia related that practically in the last third of the parade, and when acrobatic aviation exercises

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had begun, two small explosions were heard among the deafening noise of the turbine of one of the aircraft that was flying very low.

He said that in that instant he observed a truck, with a 130-mm cannon in the rear, halt and three or four men leaped off, who opened fire on the reviewing stand.

Right when feeling an explosion, he stated, it seemed to me that I was wounded and I felt myself falling to the floor, action that I immediately controlled myself.

There, he went on, in those conditions I was able to verify that I had been hit in the shoulder, because I felt that my forearm was dislocated from the upper joint.

In this situation, and in the middle of great confusion in which shouts mentioning al-Sadat were heard, I was able to pull myself together and aided by the Argentine ambassador left in search of an automobile that would take me to a medical aid center.

In those circumstances, Garcia said, I was taken to the hospital by the Finnish ambassador in his car. In that hospital, 3 kilometers away from Cairo, he continued, I underwent my first operation.

Thanks to the kindness of the comrades in the German Democratic Republic Embassy in that capital, I was taken from the Cairo hospital to Berlin in an "Interflug" flight, he stated.

Garcia estimates that the shooting, which resulted in the death of al-Sadat and he himself being wounded, lasted approximately 42 seconds, and that one of the perpetrators of the attack, numbered at four, was killed and the rest taken prisoners.

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CUBA

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER CABRISAS VISITS BULGARIA

PA282012 Havana PRELA in English 1856 GMT 28 Sep 81

[Report by Miguel Lozano]

[Text] Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 29 Sep (PL)--Cuba will sign contracts for 1982 with Bulgarian firms for goods valued at 50-80 million roubles during the Plovdiv international fair, announced Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas.

Cabrisas underlined in an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA the particular importance of Cuba's participation in the Plovdiv fair, that is giving it the opportunity to appreciate Bulgaria's economic boom. It also facilitates bilateral integration in some sectors in accordance with medium and long-term plans.

On the other hand, he added, Cuba's presence permits the results of socialist collaboration related to the growth of new export areas in the Cuban market to be exhibited.

The high-ranking Cuban official added that this permits the promotion of negotiations between Cuban foreign trade companies and Bulgarian firms and he averred that the advanced state of these conversations would allow their conclusion and signing.

Cabrisas also referred to the present state of trade relations with Bulgaria and explained that they are going ahead in accordance with the plans accorded between the top leaders of the two countries, Fidel Castro and (?Zhivkov).

Exchange of goods agreement for the 1981-85 period and the annual agreement for bilateral trade were already signed in 1980, and talks for the signing of the 1982 trade agreement, that envisions Bulgaria's growing participation in different Cuban economic-industrial sectors, will be started shortly.

Earlier Cabrisas conversed with the president of the Council of State and general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Todor Zhivkov, during the visit made by the Bulgarian leader to the Cuban pavilion.

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Zhivkov asked about the present state of the industrial plants built or under construction in Cuba with Bulgarian advice and technology and received a satisfactory answer from Cabrisas, who praised the quality of the work of the technicians in charge of putting the works into operation.

During his stay in Plovdiv, the Cuban minister also met with the vice president of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, Andrei Lukanov.

During the meeting both sides evaluated positively the present development and prospects of the economic relations between the two countries.

The talks were attended by the minister of foreign trade of Bulgaria, Khristo Khristov; the presidents of the chambers of commerce of Cuba and Bulgaria, Jose Diaz Mirabal and Peter Rusev, as well as the Cuban ambassador to Bulgaria, Jose Alvarez Bravo.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS IN CARIBBEAN SCORED

PA120332 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2141 GMT 11 Oct 81

[Article by Ivonne Pastor Parra of PRENSA LATINA]

[Text] The aggressive hawk view '81 military maneuvers that the United States is jointly carrying out with Honduras in the Caribbean Sea are another provocation against Cuba and a threat to Nicaragua and the liberation movements in Central America.

The U.S. news agency, United Press International, UPI, reported that the maneuvers, which began 2 days ago in the Caribbean coasts of Honduras, are aimed at "discovering on the high seas and seizing arms that Cuba is shipping to Central America."

In the meantime, U.S. Army Col Mark Richards, spokesman for U.S. Army Southern Command Information Service in the Panama Canal zone, said that the hawk view maneuvers in the Caribbean have nothing to do with Nicaragua.

The U.S. army officer said that the Honduran armed forces needs to practice "how to take hypothetical enemies by surprise," and that "the United States will teach them how to do it."

Observers are saying that since the U.S. Government increased its military intervention in El Salvador by sending green berets, specialists in the art of killing, it has not stopped referring to alleged Cuban intervention in Central America.

Alexander Haig, U.S. secretary of state, has said on many occasions that the White House is studying a series of actions against Cuba, among them, a military blockade of the island.

The observers say that the United States could take advantage of the hawk view '81 maneuvers to set up a permanent air force and navy base on the Caribbean coast of Central America, to complement its aggressive strategy.

They say that U.S. President Ronald Reagan, using as pretext an action to stop the exodus of Haitian refugees to the United States, running away from Duvalier's dictatorship, has ordered the U.S. Navy to patrol the windward passage, near the Cuban coast and Guantanamo's navy base, in Cuban territory, illegally occupied by the United States.

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The observers recall that the U.S. Government, referring to the alleged presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba, set up in Key West, Florida, an assault military command for the Caribbean, located 90 miles from Cuban territory.

Afterwards, the observers added, Washington will set up a rapid deployment command in Tampa, Florida, which controls the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its passage to the Caribbean Sea.

Further on, they say that in order to support this military strategy against Cuba, the CIA established a base on Swan Island, located near the Cuban coast.

They also say that the United States has increased its military units in the Caribbean and also the military maneuvers in the zone, such as the ocean view operation which was to practice an invasion of Grenada to be carried out from Vieques Island, as well as a similar military operation against Cuba.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CIA ACCUSED OF OPERATING SUBVERSIVE CAMPS IN HONDURAS

PA152041 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1454 GMT 15 Oct 81

[Article by Ana Leonor Diaz]

[Text] Havana, 15 Oct (PL)--The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] operates seven counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras from which to stage aggressions against Nicaragua.

This charge was leveled in Havana by Venezuelan journalist Freddy Balzan, executive secretary of the Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal, which sat in Managua at the end of September.

Balzan said that according to evidence submitted at the tribunal, which is composed of distinguished intellectuals and personalities of the region, Steadman Fagoth heads these groups. At one time Fagoth was leader of the Nicaraguan Misurasata Indian Organization.

Fagoth was arrested in Nicaragua last year for staging counterrevolutionary activities, but was later released when he changed his attitude publicly and before the press.

Balzan added that according to the charges brought before the tribunal by several of Fagoth's former followers, he then immediately fled to Honduras, breaking his promise to the Sandinista authorities.

In the Honduran city of Puerto Lempira, 50 kms from the Nicaraguan border, Fagoth set up the seven counterrevolutionary bases using CIA financing.

The continuation of the tribunals' work, entrusted to a permanent committee led by Nicaraguan journalist Xavier Chamorro, began today in every Central American country with the collection of signatures for an accusation on acts of U.S. interference in the region, which will be sent to the United Nations.

U.S. aggression in Central America, Balzan said, consists of threats of aggression against Nicaragua with the recent "hawk view" military maneuvers, support for counterrevolutionary gangs in Honduras and pressures against the Sandinist government.

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He added that in Costa Rica it involves economic blackmail from Washington. In Panama, it is the nonfulfillment of the canal treaties. There is also U.S. military assistance for the regimes of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

The Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal, which will meet again in Panama at the beginning of 1982, began publishing the magazine "SOBERANIA" today to denounce U.S. intervention in the region and in other countries of Latin America.

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COUNTRY SECTION

HONDURAS

U.S., HONDURAS ACCUSED IN PLOT AGAINST REBELS

PA222119 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1421 GMT 22 Sep 81

[Excerpts] San Jose, 22 Sep (PL)--Several Honduran and U.S. officials were named as the masterminds of a region-wide counterrevolutionary plan based in Honduras.

Spokesmen for the Honduran coordinating board of solidarity with the Salvadoran people charged that the main targets of the plan are the FSLN in Nicaragua and the guerrilla movements in El Salvador and Guatemala.

The Agencia Independiente de Prensa (AIP) reported that high Honduran military officers, an official of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, and a considerable number of "green berets" are involved in the project.

According to the press agency, Crescencio Arcos, head of the United States International Communications Agency (USICA) in Honduras, is one of the directors of the plan against the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The press agency says that Capt Michael Scheehar, a West Point graduate, and green beret Sgt David Thornton and Roberto Lopez, are also involved in those activities.

Several members of the national Department of Investigations (DIN), such as Adonis Carranza, Guillermo Duron, Edilberto Marquez, together with Somozist Cesar Torre and the Cuban-born mercenary Mario Fumero, were mentioned as being responsible for the activities the CIA is coordinating in Honduras.

Honduran Capt Miguel Angel Moya, military commander of La Virtud on the border with El Salvador, where hundreds of Salvadoran refugees have fled, is also participating in the plan along with former Somozist Col Carlos Rodriguez.

According to AIP, the activities against the Nicaraguan, Salvadoran and Guatemalan revolutionaries include military actions, kidnapping, and espionage.

At the same time, it was reported that 200 Puerto Rican mercenaries, trained by the Americans, are stationed in Honduras.

The military-Christian Democratic junta of El Salvador is planning to cede to Honduras the "pockets" in dispute along the border in the Salvadoran departments of Chalatenango and Cabanas.

The report claims that this action by the junta is supported by Washington to allow the Honduran army and mercenaries to attack areas where the Salvadoran guerrillas operate.

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GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

BOMB EXPLOSIONS--San Jose, 15 Oct (PL)--High-power bombs have exploded in the offices of the Army Bank and Military Welfare Fund located 100 meters from the presidential palace in Guatemala City, it was learned here. The bomb which exploded in the Army Bank caused extensive damage, principally on the first floor. It also destroyed part of a supermarket, causing an estimated \$500,000 damage. Eight other businesses in the vicinity were also damaged, as was the national palace. Total damage is estimated at approximately \$2 million, according to Central American radio stations. Another bomb exploded near the air force and honor guard installations, which is one of the main headquarters, in zones 10 and 13 of Guatemala City, a district where many soldiers live. [Text]  
[PA171720 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0234 GMT 16 Oct 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

TOMAS BORGE THANKS LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR SUPPORT

PA250254 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0230 GMT 24 Sep 81

[Article by Jorge Timossi]

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Sep (PL)--Commander Tomas Borge, FSLN national directorate member and interior minister, said today that the upcoming U.S.-Honduran maneuvers are a threat to peace in Central America.

Borge arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation that includes Welfare Minister Lea Guido and Education Minister Ernesto Cardenal.

Adolfo Diaz Lacayo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Mexico, welcomed the delegation at the airport. Tomas Borge is here to receive an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Puebla.

In statements at the airport, Borge stressed the need to find a political solution to the Salvadoran drama that will be in accord with the interests of the people.

He said that the French-Mexican joint declaration of August, which he said was both unifying and respectful of the Salvadoran people's rights to self-determination, contained the primary foundations for a solution.

Borge said that Nicaragua has always stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict, but the United States has not shown any willingness to find a solution.

He also referred, when asked by Mexican reporters, to the U.S. Government's cancellation of a \$7 million loan. He said that Nicaragua is conducting successful dealings with other nations.

He recalled that Libya recently granted loans to Nicaragua and that other countries had already promised to grant (?open) financing and long-term loans.

The Sandinist leader said that the establishment of a U.S. military base in the Gulf of Fonseca is illegal and that Nicaragua's approval is needed to establish such a base, noting that Nicaragua "will never grant it."

Referring to the joint U.S.-Honduran maneuvers to be held soon, he said that "now is a time for talks and not for confrontations."

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He warned that "peace in Central America cannot be reached through force."

He was asked if the Sandinist armed forces are prepared to face a possible invasion by Somozist groups training in Honduras and the United States.

Borge said: "If they come to Nicaragua they will simply get what they deserve."

At the end of his statements, Tomas Borge thanked the Mexican Government and people for their warm welcome and expressed the Nicaraguan Government and people's respect for President Lopez Portillo's international stand on the Central American and Caribbean issues.

The Nicaraguan delegation, which will be here until Friday, also met this afternoon with Javier Garcia Paniagua, president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

INTERVIEW WITH MEMBERS OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST TRIBUNAL

PA202035 Havana PRELA in English 1915 GMT 20 Sep 81

[Article by special correspondent Eloy Concepcion]

[Text] Managua 21 Sep (PL)--The Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal that opens here today will serve to condemn United States intervention in the area.

The watchword of the event is a statement by murdered Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero: "No to the United States intention of determining the future of the peoples."

The tribunal of outstanding regional intellectuals will meet through 23 September, with observers and guests from 12 Latin American countries.

The organizing committee confirmed the support of outstanding personalities such as writer Mario Benedetti, and Cuernavaca (Mexico) Archbishop Sergio Mendez Arceo, who voiced solidarity with the patriotic postulates of the tribunal in response to U.S. aggression in the area.

The tribunal will name its executive committee and assess the prime goals to be carried out by the top anti-imperialist investigation, denunciation and combat organization in Central America.

Some people compare the body to the Russell Tribunal, which conducted warcrimes trials in the case of the U.S. war against Vietnam. PRENSA LATINA interviewed Nicaraguan members of the organizing committee.

Mariano Fiallos, rector of the Autonomous University of Nicaragua, said that the "tribunal will have great importance for this country since a group of outstanding intellectuals and political figures will denounce the maneuvers by the United States in the world, especially in Central America.

"Those maneuvers are designed to neutralize and, if possible, change the orientation of the Nicaraguan process, its government system, its independence, to subject it once again to a situation of dependency, such as existed prior to the Sandinista victory."

For his part, Priest Uriel Molina stressed that the tribunal will compile all the information on the destabilization campaign against Nicaragua.

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"For Christians, the existence of the tribunal and being able to form part of it is a vital question, in order to implement the task that the church must assume in this historic movement for Nicaragua."

Javier Chamorro, editor of EL NUEVO DIARIO, declared that the tribunal will serve to strengthen the Nicaraguan process internally and to provide more thorough knowledge on the actions of the CIA in Central America, especially in Nicaragua, in its endeavor to destabilize and change this irreversible revolution." [quotation mark as received]

He denounced the sending of U.S. arms to the Salvadoran junta and recalled how the Nicaraguan combatants during the liberation war took from the Somoza National Guard the weapons to be used for victory against the tyranny.

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END

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