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SOURCE Prominent Guatemalan who is out of sympathy with present tendencies of Guatemalan Government.

- During November the Guatemalan Government shifted three or four of its garrison commanders, apparently to prevent anti-government forces from getting securely established in the Army.
- The government has decided to make Quetzaltenango its headquarters in the event of a revolution. It expects any invasion to start from across the Salvadoran frontier and believes its best chances for defense are to fall back on Quetzaltenango and establish a defensive line roughly north and south through that city. The terrain favors such a defense, and, by so doing, the government will have at its back the wealthiest and most productive section of Guatemala from which to draw support. One of the best officers has recently been transferred to Quetzaltenango, and the area has been reinforced with troops and arms.
- The government no longer trusts the Army completely, and, as a result has set up a secret force of non-military personnel. This force is believed to number about 1500 men, all hand-picked for their experience and toughness. These 1500 are divided unevenly among three separate organizations:
 - Caribbean Legion. A group of some 200, commanded by Miguel Angel RAMIREZ, a Dominican general, with Colonel Rivas MONTES, an Honduran, as second-in-command. RAMIREZ owns and operates a sawmill just outside of Jalapa, and the 200 men supposedly work it for him. MONTES lives in Guatemala City, where he heads Aviatega for the Guatemalan Government.
 - Secret Communist Organization. A group of roughly 500 men, scattered throughout Guatemala, headed by a commander whose name is a closely-guarded secret. The function of the group is to act as shock troops in the event of trouble and to liquidate any Communist leaders who get out of line. The highest ranking Communist leaders know of this latter function.

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- c. An unnamed group of Cubans and Spanish Republicans, headed by Eufemio FERNANDEZ, former chief of the Cuban secret police under PRIO Socorras. The specific function of the group is unknown, but FERNANDEZ is known to be still in touch with PRIO Socorras.
- 4. The Guatemalan Government has been purchasing arms in El Salvador, Czechoslovakia, and Mexico. During November, 200 medium machine guns and 500 light machine guns, along with ammunition for them, and an unknown number of carbines and hand grenades arrived from the latter country. There is good evidence that none of these arms are reaching the Army, so the inference is that they are going to labor organizations and Communist groups.
- 5. In the meantime the government is engaged in a campaign to sell Communism to the people, by publishing pamphlets and using all propaganda media. The government is also trying to infiltrate all legal political parties, using men whom the government considers sympathetic to Communism but not well known as such. From 16 to 18 January the Deputies to the National Congress are to be elected, and, although the Communists are now strong in the Congress, they hope to dominate it completely by having their men representing other parties. In March all judgeships come up for reappointment, and the appointments will be made by the Deputies elected in January. Thus, if the Communists dominate the Congress, they will also have the means of dominating the judicial process.
- 6. Economic conditions are becoming more grave every day, with capital leaving the country for Mexico and the United States. ARBENZ is preparing to invoke the Economic Emergency Law, by which all capital in the country, national and foreign, will be frozen. The government is also planning a six per cent tax on imports and exports.