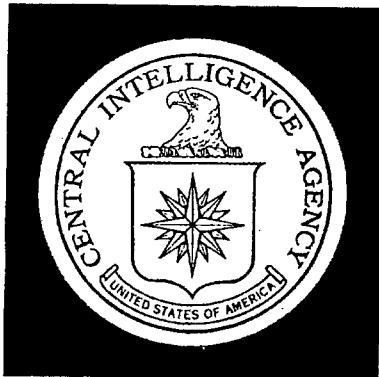


~~Secret~~

(b)(3)



DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *WEEKLY SUMMARY*

~~Secret~~

45

30 August 1968  
No. 0035/68

~~SECRET~~

## GUATEMALA REACTS TO ASSASSINATION OF US AMBASSADOR

A state of siege has been imposed in Guatemala following the assassination of US Ambassador John Gordon Mein on 28 August. The ambassador probably was killed by the Communist Rebel Armed Forces (FAR). The country's borders have been sealed and security forces are conducting a house-to-house search for the assassins. A round-up of known Communists and leftist extremists is under way in the capital. President Mendez has ordered full and complete cooperation with the US on any measure concerning the assassination.

The murder occurred as the ambassador was returning to his office after hosting a luncheon at his residence for US and Guatemalan officials. The assassins were attempting to kidnap him--probably as a hostage for the release of FAR leader Carlos Francisco Ordonez, who was ar-

rested in Guatemala City on 24 August--but killed him instead as he attempted to evade capture. A policeman guarding the nearby Belgian Embassy tried to stop the terrorists but he was wounded.

During the past year, Guatemalan security forces have been successful in keeping the terrorists in the rural areas on the run. Reports indicate, however, that the guerrillas are again becoming active in northeastern Guatemala. The FAR has been relatively quiet for the past few months, using the time for recruiting, training, and rebuilding its seriously damaged supply network before resuming large-scale guerrilla activity. It has continued, however, to retain the capability for selected hit-and-run terrorist actions, particularly in the large urban centers.

(b)(3)

\* \* \*

~~SECRET~~