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(See inside cover)



National Intelligence Bulletin

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BRAZIL

The Brazilian security forces are stepping up their efforts to prevent potentially disruptive protests.

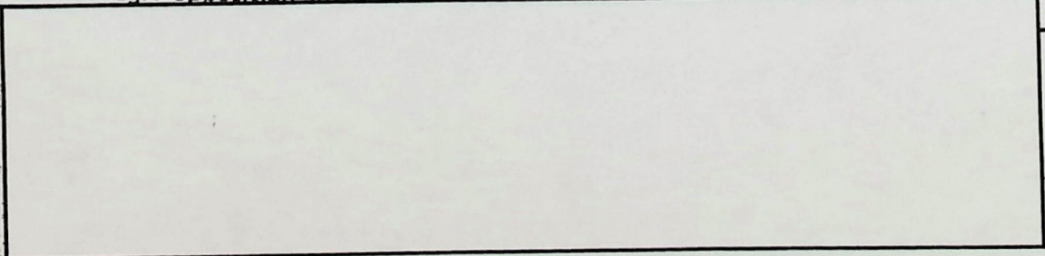
Security officials and other disgruntled military conservatives appear to have been emboldened by President Geisel's concessions to them in a speech on August 1 and have apparently interpreted his call for vigilance against subversion as a license to move against other critics of the regime.

This pressure will continue because Geisel announced only a halt—not a reversal—of the liberalization process and because the legal opposition party, with an obvious eye to next year's municipal elections, is becoming more critical of administration policies. The recent invitation to foreign companies to prospect for oil in Brazil has provoked sharp criticism in some sectors. The new policy runs counter to deeply ingrained nationalist sentiment and reverses the practice of the past two decades of excluding foreigners from this sensitive area.

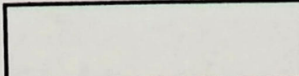
Many Brazilians apparently are becoming disenchanted with the Geisel administration. During its nearly two-year tenure, the vaunted "economic miracle" has become virtually a thing of the past, as rising prices have put a squeeze on consumers and balance-of-payments problems have constrained growth. Last year's impressive gains by the nominal opposition party in congressional elections were an early indication of popular disaffection.

Moreover, the anticipated political liberalization has all but ground to a halt. Last week, for example, the Ministry of Justice ordered state governors to prevent meetings that could prove disruptive. The directive does not substantially add to the government's powers, but it does provide state officials with greater authority and considerable latitude in their actions. The opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement is criticizing the administration's action as unconstitutional and voicing the concern that it will be used to narrow the scope of legitimate political action.

Widespread apprehension has been heightened by the arrest of several members of the legal opposition in the drive against communism.



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Many illegal actions reportedly have taken place without President Geisel's knowledge or approval, but he has yet to take disciplinary action against security officials who operate independent of his authority. If public criticism of his administration should eventually culminate in violence, Geisel would be forced to side with the military conservatives, with whom he has long differed.

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GUATEMALA-BELIZE

Guatemala is sending more troops to its military base near the Belizean border, a move that reflects anxiety over British intentions regarding the territory.

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Guatemalan officials have threatened to invade Belize if Britain grants independence without settling Guatemala's claim to the colony or if the UN passes a resolution later this month calling for independence without a favorable settlement.

Some in the governing group, especially among the military, believe the draft resolution now circulating in the UN makes it impossible for Guatemala to negotiate on reasonable terms. Early this week, the British tried to calm the Guatemalans by telling them that the UK is open to negotiations after the UN vote is taken and that it then might show some flexibility. The Guatemalans welcomed this, but still objected to the restrictive terms the draft resolution places on future negotiations.

Unless the hard-liners can be persuaded that the resolution is not intolerable or humiliating, they are likely to increase their pressure on President Laugerud to take military action to make good Guatemala's claim to Belize.

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