

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

HR



National Intelligence Bulletin

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

August 2, 1975

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

No 662

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3)

National Intelligence Bulletin

August 2, 1975

EL SALVADOR

A clash between students and security forces could signal a major problem for President Molina's administration.

Simmering student unrest manifested itself most recently in threats to disrupt last month's Miss Universe contest to protest the government's waste of money in hosting it. Security precautions kept the lid on during the pageant, but on July 30 some 500 students left the university campus to demonstrate in the capital. Security force units, claiming they acted in self-defense, opened fire. The government admits that five students were killed; some reports place the number at 12.

In a news conference on July 31, Molina claimed that the march was part of a communist conspiracy and hinted he might impose a state of siege. He also accused the major opposition party, the Christian Democrats,—some of whose deputies marched with the students—of promoting the violence. Molina's charges against the communists and the Christian Democrats, traditional enemies of the armed forces, are designed to ensure the solidarity of the military, the country's principal political force.

The Christian Democrats, in anticipation of the 1976 legislative elections, have recently been more aggressive in denouncing government corruption and inefficiency. The party controls the capital's municipal government and has its largest popular base there. It may seize upon the student deaths—highly out of the ordinary for generally peaceful El Salvador—to spur popular dissatisfaction with Molina

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(6)

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3)