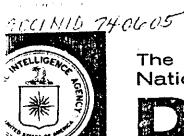
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LATIN AMERICA

Kidnaping Tests Mexican Policy

The kidnaping by leftist guerriflas of a well-known Mexican Senator will test the Echeverria government's policy of not giving in to kidnapers' demands.

Interior Minister Moya announced Monday that the senator and four associates had been abducted on May 30 by Lucio Cabanas' guerrilla group, the country's chief rural terrorist band. Cabanas operates in Guerrero, a state south of Mexico City, where he receives considerable support from the peasants.

Adding to the government's concern is the fact that the senator is the administration's choice for governor in elections scheduled for later this year in Guerrero. He had promised in his campaign to "pacify" the state, and had apparently journeyed to the rugged mountains near Acapulco to meet with Cabanas and offer him "total amnesty."

Thus far the kidnapers' only clear demand for the release of the victims is the removal of army troops and police from areas where Cabanas operates. Press reports last night indicated that local police have been withdrawn from the areas.

Secretary Moya says the federal government will make no decision on how it will react until it is certain that the victims are alive and Canabas' demands are made more precise. Cabanas has been known to execute victims when ransom demands were not met.