

3-6-1992

## Honduras: Young Officers Criticize Armed Forces Leadership & Threaten To Launch Coup

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Honduras: Young Officers Criticize Armed Forces Leadership & Threaten To Launch Coup." (1992).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/7163>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **Honduras: Young Officers Criticize Armed Forces Leadership & Threaten To Launch Coup**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, March 6, 1992*

In a Feb. 22 communique delivered to several local radio stations, a group of young Honduran military officers calling itself the "General Jose Trinidad Cabanas Revolutionary Movement" accused the military leadership of "blackmail and opportunism," and threatened to launch a coup d'etat. After asserting that a coup in Honduras will not fail, as was the case in Venezuela, the communique said, "We will not allow politicization of the armed forces." The "Movement" criticized what it called widespread signs of corruption among the armed forces leadership. The group's primary complaint is that current armed forces chief Gen. Luis Alonso Discua, together with five officers recently appointed to the rank of general, violated internal seniority and promotions criteria. Next, the communique said the "Movement" rejected a proposal to eliminate the armed forces chief post. Military spokespersons have said such a change is necessary to subordinate the military to civilian rule. The young officers denounced the proposal as a "political maneuver, sponsored by the US Embassy, which would convert the military establishment into the puppet of whichever political party happens to be in power." The communique said the proposed reforms would permit the civilian government to appoint the defense minister, i.e., selecting "any colonel who, directly or indirectly, is sympathetic towards their party." The current leader of the governing National Party, Celin Discua, is Gen. Discua's brother. On Feb. 24, the Movement released a second communique to local newspapers. The officer group criticized the military leadership for complicity in supporting a reduction of the armed forces budget; allowing military officers to be prosecuted in civilian courts; failure to confront administrative corruption; participation in fraudulent electoral practices; turning a blind eye toward contraband activities carried out by relatives of President Rafael Callejas; and, "indifference" regarding involvement of military officers in drug trafficking activities. Gen. Discua said an investigation would be launched to identify the authors of the communiqués. He added that any armed forces personnel found to be involved with the "Movement" would immediately receive a "dishonorable discharge." Discua told reporters on Dec. 24 that the "Movement" might be comprised of "leftist enemies of the democratic system" who had infiltrated the armed forces. According to the general, "those who speak of democracy within the armed forces are totally wrong. It is absurd to think of such a thing. [In the military] there is a single leadership which issues the orders and all those who belong to the institution are obliged by law to obey those orders." On Feb. 25, Deputy Carlos Sosa of the Innovation and National Unity Party (PINU), a co-sponsor of the armed forces reform bill, said he did not believe the group of young officers wielded much influence. He added that Gen. Discua had demonstrated a "patriotic" attitude in "understanding the need to support a program of disarmament, demilitarization, democracy and development." (Basic data from, Agence France- Presse, 02/22/92, 02/24/92; Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/22/92, 02/25/92)

-- End --