

Coup leaders void Guatemala elections

United Press International
GUATEMALA CITY — Guatemala's new military junta declared the results of the March 7 presidential election null and void Thursday but the head of the junta said he did not plan to take over the presidency.

Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, head of the three-man junta that toppled President Romeo Lucas Garcia Tuesday, said the deposed president was being held under house arrest.

The election, which the coup leaders had denounced as "fraudulent," was won by Gen. Arribal Guevara, candidate of the government coalition party headed by Lucas Garcia.

Guevara, who had been scheduled to take office July 1, was reported to be in the United States.

The Young Officers Movement, which mounted the coup, said it acted to restore democracy to Guatemala but it gave no

indication when control of the country would be turned over to civilians.

The three-man military junta announced the decision to cancel the results of the election at a news conference. A military spokesman said the junta took the decision because the election was corrupt. They did not announce plans for a new election.

Asked if he would run for president once civilian rule was restored, as the army has promised, Rios replied: "I will not accept any candidacy for the presidency of Guatemala because I have responsibilities that cannot be postponed with the army and those do not figure in, precisely, with the presidency of the republic."

Rios, who came out of retirement to take over as head of government, did not say when civilian rule would be restored.

Rios said Lucas Garcia was

being held under house arrest at his ranch in the remote region of Sebol, Alta Verapaz.

His brother, former army chief of staff Benedicto Lucas Garcia, was being held with him, Rios added. The junta chief did not say what the new regime planned to do with the two former officials.

The New York Times reported Thursday that U.S. officials knew of the plans for a coup as early as January.

However, a Guatemalan politician who said he was one of the coup plotters told reporters Wednesday the United States did not know of the coup in advance.

"The first reaction of the United States was surprise," said Lionel Siniesta Otero, vice presidential candidate of the right-wing National Liberation Movement. "Even their intelligence service did not know about it."



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Amount of rice exported drops

Industry in sticky situation

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The American rice industry is in the doldrums, in spite of exports that might equal last year's record, because exports are not keeping up with last year's bumper harvest.

In the short run, Agriculture Department experts predict little improvement in prices to farmers.

There has been trouble on the export front because of delays in South Korea's promised purchase of 500,000 tons of rice so shipments may go beyond the end of this marketing year. Sales to other nations are better than

expected.

The Agriculture Department said Tuesday that a bumper harvest of 185 million hundredweight would push total U.S. rice supplies to a new high of 200 million hundredweight.

Supplies are up 30 million hundredweight from a year ago. A small increase in the domestic demand for rice for beer may take up just 2 million hundredweight of that increase.

Supplies at the end of the season are expected to rise to 51 million, about three times the level of a year earlier.

The problem with South Korea's purchases stemmed

from a Carter administration agreement that permitted Japan to sell 1 million tons of its surplus rice to South Korea in 1980 as long as the Koreans promised to buy certain amounts from the United States.

But Koreans want to buy some of the rice past the July 31 end of the marketing year, worsening the impact of the American surplus.

In its outlook summary, the Agriculture Department said exports of medium-grain rice to Korea will drop dramatically this season following two years of record sales.

But total U.S. rice exports are expected to be 91 million hundredweight, or 3 million tons when milled, about equal last year's record.

Better-than-anticipated sales of long-grain rice to Iraq, Iran and Nigeria and enlarged purchases of rough rice by Italy pushed U.S. exports above early expectations, department reports said.

As of March 11, shipments of American rice were slightly below a year ago, but outstanding

sales lagged by about 650,000 tons. Most outstanding sales are for long-grain rice.

Americans are expected to use about 2 million hundredweight more rice this year than last year's consumption of 54.5 million for food, beer and seed.

Because of low market prices, the Agriculture Department was forced to pay rice allotment holders an extra 28 cents per hundredweight for last year's crop. The payment was based on an average market price of \$10.40 per hundredweight, 28 cents below a target farmers were guaranteed.

For the marketing year, the

average price to farmers is expected to range between \$9.25 to \$10.25, down from an average of \$12.80 last year.

As part of the Reagan administration's program to bring supplies more in line with demand by reducing acreage, rice farmers are being encouraged, along with cotton, feed grain and wheat farmers, to cut acreage.

To qualify for price supports, rice farmers must cut acreage by 15 percent.

So far, with a sign-up deadline on April 16, 21 percent of rice acreage has been signed up at a higher rate than for other crops.

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Tower predicts MX missile money may be slashed

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, Thursday predicted the full Armed Services Committee will endorse action by one of its subcommittees to slash funds for the MX missile and defer its first phase of deployment.

Tower, chairman of the committee, told reporters dissatisfaction in Congress with the deployment plan developed by the administration — and not opposition to the missile system itself — led to the subcommittee vote.

"I concur in the purpose of the subcommittee in taking its momentous step," he said. "It acted to save the MX missile."

One member of the subcommittee said privately a major cut in funding requested by President Reagan could mean "the death of the MX missile."

Sen. Dan Quayle, R-Ind., another subcommittee member, said: "This could be the beginning of the end of the MX missile unless better justifications for a basing system are presented."

However, Tower said the project has wide support in Congress, despite the controversy over how and where to base it.

Tower supported an original basing proposal to move the missiles among scattered shelters in Nevada and Utah. However, that plan was rejected by Reagan in the face of widespread opposition.

Tower said he still believes some form of deceptive basing system should be devised, supported by an antiballistic missile system to protect the MX from attack.

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