WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 185-74-4

2. /MEXICO: LUCIO CABANAS, MEXICO'S PREMIER RURAL GUERRILLA CHIEFTAIN, WAS KILLED IN A BATTLE WITH ARMY TROOPS ON DECEMBER 2. SOME 20 OF CABANAS' BAND ALSO WERE REPORTED AS KILLED IN THE CLASH. //Y CABANAS HAD ELUDED AUTHORITIES FOR YEARS, BUT THE ARMY BEGAN TO CLOSE IN AFTER HE KIDNAPED A WEALTHY SENATOR LAST MAY. THE SENATOR WAS FREED DURING A GUNBATTLE IN SEPTEMBER. //Y CABANAS' DEATH WILL BE A SEVERE BLOW TO HIS "PARTY OF THE POOR," BUT THE MOUNTAINS OF MEXICO'S SOUTHERN GUERRERO STATE ARE A TRADITIONAL SPawning GROUND OF BANDITS AND GUERRILLAS THAT MAY PRODUCE NEW LEADERS TO TAKE UP THE CAUSE.

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1974