

NYTimes

BOLIVIAN TROOPS PLACED ON ALERT

Government Fears Rightist
Plot Against Torres

LA PAZ, Bolivia, June 22 (Reuters)—Bolivia was under a state of emergency today with troops on alert to guard against a reported right-wing plot to overthrow President Juan José Torres.

The allegations of a plot were the latest in a long series made by the Government of General Torres, who took power last October after defeating a right-wing military revolt.

La Paz remained quiet and no troop movements were sighted, although Interior Minister Jorge Gallardo announced Monday night that forces believed to be loyal to General Torres were heading for the capital.

Government officials said that despite the emergency measures a newly formed Pop-



Camera Press

Juan José Torres

ular Assembly, made up of left-wing workers, student and peasant delegates, would open its first working session Tuesday as scheduled.

Announcing the state of emergency, Mr. Gallardo said the plot against the Government appeared to be based in Cochabamba, Bolivia's second largest city, 140 miles southeast of La Paz.

Mobilization on Weekend

Several reports of imminent coups have been circulating in La Paz since Friday, and armed peasants, workers and students mobilized here on the weekend to back General Torres.

The general apparently calmed right-wing army opposition at a meeting with a group of officers at the Viacha garrison near La Paz.

Many conservative officers were reported to be apprehensive of the role of the Popular Assembly, which the President set up to calm demands by students and workers for a greater part in national politics.

The 221-member assembly, the first of its kind in Latin America, has no real powers and can only advise the military Government.

But conservative groups feared that the delegates, who were mainly appointed by unions and student and farmer associations, might seek to dictate policy.