GEN. URIBE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED

Leader of Colombian Insurgents May Have Died in Battle.

Report Comes on Authority of a Colombia Newspaper—Discredited by Colombians Here.

The report of the death of Gen. Rafael Uribe-Uribe, the leader of the Colombian insurrectionists, was received in this city yesterday. According to El Conservador, a semi-official newspaper published at Barranquilla, Colombia, Gen. Uribe was killed at San Cristobal, Venezuela, on July 27, while fighting with the Venezuelan troops against the Colombian invaders, led by Dr. Rangel Garbiras.

El Conservador's authority for this report is a message sent by Gen. Iguaran, in charge of the Colombian Government forces at Rio Hacha, to the Commander in Chief at Barranquilla.

Much excitement was caused among Colombians here by the reported killing of the rebel General. While there is nothing definite on which to base a denial of the report made by Gen. Iguaran, the friends of Gen. Uribe point to the fact, which they consider significant, that the Government has not sent this important news by cable to its representatives. The Colombian Consulate has not been officially notified. They also discredit it because several times during the rebellion, a year ago, Gen. Uribe was declared killed in battle.

No direct news has been received from Gen. Uribe since he left here on June 15. On that date he is said to have sailed for Venezuela. Colombian officials said that he went there to secure aid from President Castro, in the shape of arms and ammunition, to continue the rebellion.

Since then Dr. A. J. Restrepo, the diplomatic representative of the insurgents, has received indirect information that Gen. Uribe has returned safely into Colombia and is fighting at the head of 15,000 men. Direct news from Gen. Uribe was expected a week ago, but did not come. His friends were again disappointed yesterday when the steamer Zulia of the Red D Line arrived without bringing a letter from him.

The Colombian Government has all along maintained that Gen. Uribe was not in Colombia, but on the frontier of Venezuela waiting for a chance to slip into the country at Cucuta. Then, on July 27, came an invasion into Venezuela from Colombia at San Cristobal, which was reported as a revolution against President Castro, led by Dr. Rangel Garbiras. President Castro characterized it as a "Colombian invasion." The invaders, numbering 5,000, were defeated by 10,000 Venezuelan troops, who, Colombia alleges, were led by Gen. Uribe. This explains his presence at San Cristobal.

If the death of Gen. Uribe is really true—and there is no positive information to the contrary—the revolution has been dealt its heaviest blow. Since the revolution started, in October, 1899, he has been its main support. As a military leader he has probably no peer in South America, and he has been called the "second Simon Bolivar."

While the killing of Gen. Uribe would prove a great loss to the insurrectionists, it is said that it will not have the effect of ending the insurrection, as there are several other capable leaders in the rebel army. Dr. Restrepo said last night that he does not believe the report of Gen. Uribe's death, and hopes to be in a position to give positive evidence in a day or two that he is alive and fighting. Señor Eduardo Espinosa, ex-Consul General of Colombia, in this city, also discredited the story.

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