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NIO/W

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-2141-80/1  
24 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America

25X1

1. Attached is a copy of the Latin America Warning Assessment based upon our discussion of 19 March 1980.

25X1

2. The next warning meeting will be held on 22 April 1980 at 1100 hours in room 5G00 at CIA headquarters. Tentative agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- . -- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Cuba - aid to revolutionaries in Caribbean and Central America
- Argentina - Soviet relations
- Brazil - economic problems

Please call  by noon on 23 March to give her the name of the individual participating from your office.

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Jack Davis

Att: (1)

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THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Officers

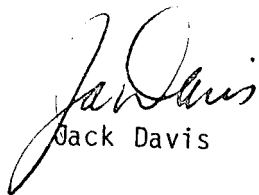
24 March 1980

MEMO FOR: DCI

FROM : NIO/LA

As indicated in paragraph 2 of the attached warning assessment, I judge that the prospects for the junta in El Salvador remain poor. The US decision not to send the MTTs until the junta confronts the terrorism of the extreme right could work to demoralize the military members of the junta, rather than to galvanize them into action against the right. While action against rightist terrorists probably is necessary for ultimate pacification, the junta members fear that it would split the military.

As indicated in paragraph 5, I believe there is perhaps a one in three chance that the hostage situation in Colombia will take a violent turn over the next two weeks.

  
Jack Davis

Attachment

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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-2141-80  
24 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America (C)

1. Action Requested: None; for your information only. (U)
2. El Salvador

Pressures on the junta are likely to increase, despite the recent launching of reform programs. Increased armed attacks and popular agitation on the part of the extreme left seem likely, as a calculated tactic to undercut the political gains to the junta from its agrarian and other reforms. Potentially more destabilizing in the short run is the increase in right-wing terrorism. This seems calculated to drive the Christian Democrats from the junta and to force the latter to move toward the right and away from serious reform programs. (S)

The likelihood that the junta will take effective steps to curb right-wing terrorism -- which is to some extent condoned and assisted by conservative officers in the army and the security forces -- is small. Thus, the likelihood that the present junta can substantially enhance its effectiveness and popularity is small. (S)

3. Honduras

The approach of the April constituent assembly elections will lead to a rise in political violence, as various political groups try to disrupt and discredit the event. The elections probably will take place, but are unlikely to effect a dramatic step forward toward effective civilian government. (S)

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4. Guatemala

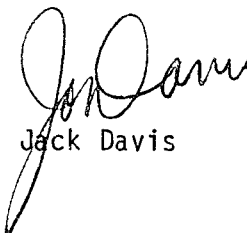
Concern about events in El Salvador and about reports of plans for increased terrorism by Guatemalan leftist extremists seem to be fueling right-wing and government attacks on known leftists and suspected sympathizers. This strong-arm reaction will help maintain conservative control over the short terms, but it diverts attention from needed political measures to assure internal peace over the long haul. (S)

5. Colombia

The hostage situation may soon reach a decisive stage. The terrorists may decide that the Colombian Government is rejecting their minimum demands on prisoner release. They may resort to an act of violence against a hostage to force concessions. Colombian security forces might then insist on attacking the Dominican Embassy. Over the next two weeks, there is perhaps a one in three chance of violence in connection with the hostage situation. (S)

6. Jamaica

Along with the recent rise in nonpolitical violence (because of increased economic deprivation), there now has been a rise in political violence as both Manley's party and the opposition seek advantages for the general elections. Party leaders believe that the calculated violence can be kept in bounds. An unintended blending of the two sources of violence, however, could provoke large-scale riots that would overtax the small and demoralized security forces. (S)



Jack Davis

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