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DCI WORLDWIDE BRIEFING -- COSTA RICA

Government Forces: Costa Rica has no army but the public security forces, which include five separate organizations, number about 7,000.

Armed Extreme Left: Estimated to be about 500.

Government:

- Social democratic President Luis Alberto Monge took office in office in May 1982. He faces formidable economic problems, and government austerity measures to satisfy IMF demands may erode Monge's popular support.
- Monge and Foreign Minister Volio have strongly condemned extreme left activities in the region. Elements of his own party feel the Monge/Volio approach is too confrontational.

Extreme Left:

- Electoral strength minimal--about 6.4% of February 82 vote, a decrease from their 7.3% share of the 1978 election.
- Includes three active groups, with about 500 armed members.
- Controls about 50,000 workers, but recent banana strike settlement did not satisfy any of the workers' demands and may have eroded Communist labor support.
- We have little recent reporting of weapons shipments through Costa Rica, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Costa Rica continues to serve as a contact and transit point for Salvadoran and Guatemalan guerrillas.
- Evidence of increased Cuban/Nicaraguan support for subversion against Costa Rica includes:

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- Cuban promise of support to new leftist political party to be headed by former Minister of Security, Johnny Echeverria.
- As of August 1982, GRN had provided training and assistance to 100 Costa Rican leftists in Nicaragua.

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Extreme Right

- Free Costa Rica Movement (MCRL), an organization of conservative businessmen, exists to oppose the Communist threat.
 - Estimated membership: 500-1,000.
 - Frequently makes paid press denunciations of leftist activities.
 - Currently providing paramilitary training of weekends for 150 members.

	Moderate Political Forces				Extreme or Violent Right
	Radical or Violent Left	Democratic Left	Center	Conservative	
Political Parties	PVP MRP RS	PLN	PRD PDS	PRC PUP MSN	MZRL
Guerrilla/Terrorist Groups	"Family"				
Labor Groups	CCTO CAT CUT	oo			
Business Groups	AIIE				