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DIASSUWODA 28E-83

SUMMARY OF
SIGNIFICANT UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
AND CIVIL DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES
5 December 1983

LEBANON: CAR BOMB KILLS 20 IN BEIRUT APARTMENT HOUSE (U)

(U) News sources report a powerful explosion believed to be a car bomb took place in a Moslem neighborhood in Beirut at 0804 local time, 5 December 1983. Preliminary information indicates at least 20 people were killed, 50 wounded, and a block of apartments and shops were set on fire. The explosion ignited a storeroom full of turpentine resulting in additional destruction. Initial reporting provides no information concerning the reason for the incident, although the possibility exists that it could have been accidental by persons building a car bomb in the garage under the apartment house that was destroyed. This incident follows the killing of eight U.S. Marines in Beirut during shelling of their positions at Beirut's airport on 4 December. The threat continues to be very high in Beirut and additional retaliatory attacks against U.S. forces must be expected.

LEBANON: ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED IN NABATIYA (U)

(U) A press report reported that a member of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) was killed and another wounded by a terrorist attack in Nabatiya, Southern Lebanon on 2 December 1983. In addition a local inhabitant was killed and another wounded. The attack took place in the Nabatiyah market. Three masked terrorist (NFI) fired a bazooka from a car at two IDF vehicles, causing the casualties. IDF soldiers returned fire but the terrorists managed to escape. A curfew has been imposed in the Nabatiyah region and IDF security forces have begun an investigation.

EL SALVADOR: TERRORISTS TO SEEK OUT U.S. TRAINERS (S/NF/NC/WN/ORCON)

(S/SPECAT/NF/NC/WN/ORCON) Recent reporting from El Salvador indicates that one of that country's five ultra-leftist insurgent groups, People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), may be attempting to determine the location of U.S. trainers within El Salvador.

(S/SPECAT/NF/NC/WN/ORCON) Comment: It is unclear whether the ERP intends specific operations against U.S. trainers. It is more likely that if attacks do take place they will be against Salvadoran Army units that have U.S. military personnel attached to them. Since the Spring of 1983, there have been a number of accounts dealing with insurgents' intentions to assassinate or kidnap either U.S. or Salvadoran officials. During August, we reported a guerrilla scheme ("the six month plan") that had been scheduled to begin in mid-1983. This

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DIASSUWODA 235-83

campaign of violence was to increase steadily in tempo until it reached a peak during December 1983. One aspect of the latter operation included plans to kill both Salvadoran and U.S. officials. The original plan was derailed allegedly because of the prompt actions of the Salvadoran security forces. Therefore the present report to locate U.S. trainers may only be the latest version of the previously reported "six month plan." While the involvement of ERP is somewhat novel, it is not, however, all that surprising given its relative strength. In the past, the fighting arm (FAL) of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES), the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), and the overall insurgent umbrella organization (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front/FMLN) have figured in such reporting. Finally, the insurgents have seemingly regained the initiative in the field and this recent report may simply reflect that offensive attitude.

GUATEMALA: MORE TERRORIST TARGETING OF U.S. PERSONNEL REPORTED (C/NF)

(S/NF/NC/WN/ORCON) Recent reporting indicates that the orthodox faction of the Guatemalan Labor (Communist) Party (PGT/O) is planning an attack on the residence of the U.S. Marine Security Guard (MSG) Detachment in Guatemala City. According to the report, the attack is being delayed because the person responsible for delivering the weapons to be used in the attack cannot be located. Reportedly, at least two PGT/O Central Committee members are involved in planning the operation. In a related matter, Guatemalan security officials discovered a guerrilla safehouse in Zone 12 of the capital on 28 November. The discovery of yet another safehouse in Guatemala City underscores the terrorist presence and continued activity in the major urban areas.

(S/NF/NC/WN/ORCON) Comment: The above report follows earlier reporting on targeting of the U.S. Defense Attache in Guatemala; a strafing of the U.S. Ambassador's residence; and reports of plans to bomb the U.S. Embassy and to utilize RPG-2s against the Ambassador's vehicle (see DIASSUWODA 58-83 of March 1983 for previous bomb threats against the MSG; 226-83 for reports on a delay in PGT-O plans against the U.S. Ambassador; 221-83, 219-83, 217-83, 214-83 for information on various plans to car bomb U.S. and Israeli Embassies, threats, and strafing of U.S. Ambassador's residence). Obviously, a heightened sense of security awareness for U.S. officials in Guatemala is paramount for the near term.

GUATEMALA: RADICAL RIGHTIST ACCUSED IN MURDER OF PROMINENT PRIEST (U)

(S/NF/NC/WN/ORCON) Recent reporting from Guatemala has indicated that the ongoing investigation by security officials of the 7 November 1983 murder of Father Augusto Ramirez Monasterio has resulted in a report that hints at radical rightist involvement. Father Ramirez, a Guatemalan, was the Father Superior of the Franciscan Order in Antigua. Since his death, there has been a great deal of speculation (see DIASSUWODA 222-83 for initial reporting concerning the murder) as to the identity of the assassins. The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in the capital suspects the Government, while the Roman Catholic religious community in Antigua reportedly believes the government was not involved. For its part, the government denies all involvement. The recent report, however, accuses the ultra-rightist National Liberation Movement (MLN)

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