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DCI/NIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

El Salvador

The insurgent threat of assassination attempts against US personnel in El Salvador will likely remain serious for the foreseeable future.

- An insurgent radio broadcast called the killing of the US Marines an act of "revolutionary justice" and warned that such actions would continue.
- While there is no evidence that Havana or Managua were directly involved in the operation, they undoubtedly are aware of the insurgents' terrorism campaign.
- The armed forces of both countries were put on alert after the killings, probably because of fear of US retaliation.

The Salvadoran insurgent group responsible for the killings, the PRTC, has a long history of terrorist acts in the capital.

- The PRTC claimed responsibility for the first terrorist kidnapping of US citizens in El Salvador, businessmen McDonald and Bucheli in September 1979.
- The group has branches throughout Central America, and has committed other terrorist acts in Honduras and Costa Rica.
- The Soviets have had close ties to some of the PRTC's leadership since the early 1960s, and there is evidence of longstanding Cuban support as well.

The armed wing of the PRTC is one of the smallest of the FMLN insurgent factions, with perhaps only 700 men.

- The group has camps in central El Salvador in conjunction with other factions.
- Nadia Diaz, the third-highest ranking member of the PRTC, is currently a captive of the Salvadoran Army.

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