

[REDACTED]

Central Intelligence Agency

(P)



Washington, D.C.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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CENTRAL AMERICAN THREAT ASSESSMENT

Summary

[REDACTED] Cuba and the Sandinistas are attempting to increase the capabilities of regional Central American leftist groups to carry out renewed violence, possibly against US targets. In most cases, these efforts appear to be related to Sandinista threats of a wider regional conflict in the event of a US-supported invasion of Nicaragua. In some cases, however, the support may assist the attempts of local leftist groups to demonstrate their own viability. In particular, [REDACTED] leftists may plan new violence [REDACTED] to coincide with an expected insurgent offensive in El Salvador. Nevertheless, there is little evidence to indicate that regional leftists are preparing for simultaneous actions against US targets in the immediate future, especially over the Christmas holidays. [REDACTED]

This memorandum was requested by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. It was prepared by [REDACTED] ALA. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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[REDACTED]

EL SALVADOR

The FMLN appears to be planning an upsurge in urban terrorist activity, perhaps to coincide with a military offensive [REDACTED] the guerrillas have large caches of arms and ammunition in and around San Salvador, and continue to train members in urban warfare techniques. In view of the fact that well trained urban insurgents are eager to carry the war to the enemy, including the US, it is possible the guerrillas may undertake some action against the US Embassy or US personnel in El Salvador. In particular, the recently formed Revolutionary Workers Movement (MOR)--a splinter group consisting of the more radical elements of the FPL--could conduct terrorist actions to win support from members of its parent organization. Finally, there is an increased threat to US personnel from the Salvadoran far right as a result of US pressure on the Army to crackdown on death squad activities. [REDACTED]