



**Directorate of
Intelligence**

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Late Stage Indicators of Insurgent Success: El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Philippines



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An Intelligence Assessment



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*G1 83-10073
March 1983*

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Guatemala: Chronology of Significant Events

- January 1980** *Occupation of Spanish Embassy by leftist radicals and Indian peasants provokes police attack in which protesters and hostages are killed; Spain breaks diplomatic relations; international media condemnation of Guatemala grows substantially.* [] (b)(3)
- February 1980** *Guerrilla violence intensifies, highlighted by attacks on Defense Minister and national police chief.* [] (b)(3)
- July 1981** *Security forces conduct most successful urban operation to date, seizing extensive network of ORPA safehouses and arms caches in Guatemala City; ORPA military capabilities are seriously damaged.* [] (b)(3)
- August 1981** *Gen. Benedicto Lucas, brother of President Fernando Lucas, is named Army Chief of Staff and initiates new strategy of more mobility in the western highlands and large-scale sweeps against insurgent-controlled areas.* [] (b)(3)
- September 1981** *Seeking to regain lost momentum, ORPA stages most spectacular operation to date; 200 to 300 guerrillas attack and overrun the departmental capital of Solola, killing the governor.* [] (b)(3)
- January 1982** *EGP guerrillas attack and overrun the military garrison at San Juan Cotzal, killing three officers and nine soldiers; this rebel victory apparently goads the Army into undertaking a systematic campaign to reestablish government authority in that area of the western highlands; Guatemalan guerrillas formally declare the establishment of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG).* [] (b)(3)
- February 1982** *The Army announces the formation of three new battalions as part of expanding war effort.* [] (b)(3)
- March 1982** *Gen. Anibal Guevara, handpicked protege of outgoing General Lucas, is elected President of the republic amidst a general outcry of electoral fraud; Guevara is ousted by a military coup, and a three-man junta is installed.* [] (b)(3)
- June 1982** *The junta is dissolved and Gen. Efraim Rios Montt becomes President; amnesty is offered to the guerrillas.* [] (b)(3)
- July 1982** *A formal state of siege is imposed and counterinsurgency efforts against the guerrillas in Western Highlands are intensified.* [] (b)(3)
- September 1982** *A 30-member Council of State is inaugurated with the unprecedented participation of 10 Indians; this advisory body is designed to give representation to all Guatemalan social classes and ethnic groups.* [] (b)(3)
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