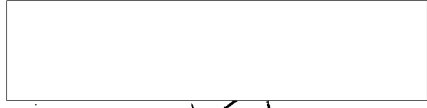




Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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**COMMUNIST AND GUERRILLA GROUPS  
IN NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA**

Country	Group	Estimated Strength	Description
El Salvador	Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces	800-1,000	Has long record of terrorist activities; some 50 members have recently received training in Cuba; supported Sandinistas with men, arms, equipment, and money; controls Popular Revolutionary Bloc, an antigovernment peasant-worker-teacher-student coalition.
	Armed Forces of National Resistance	600-800	Has committed numerous kidnappings for ransom; has had contacts with Cubans; provided funds to Sandinistas; has a front organization, the United Popular Action Front.
	Popular Revolutionary Army	500-600	Has carried out bombings, seizures of radio and TV stations; provided arms, funds, and possibly combatants to Sandinistas.
	Communist Party of El Salvador	300-500	Follows generally cautious policy, but has received Cuban advice and possibly provided handful of men to Sandinistas.
Guatemala	Guerrilla Army of the Poor	300	Founded by dissident Communists; has carried out a variety of terrorist operations; members have received training in Cuba; supported Sandinistas with materiel, propaganda, and a small number of combatants.
	Rebel Armed Forces	Under 100	Has recently stepped up propaganda activity and claimed credit for a kidnaping; has received a Cuban offer of training.
	Guatemalan Labor (Communist) Party	1,000	Follows cautious policy; has received advice from Cubans.
	Guatemalan Labor (Communist) Party—Militant faction	Under 100	Has undertaken occasional guerrilla action; has received Cuban financial help and advice.
Honduras	Communist Party of Honduras	Up to 1,500	Follows generally cautious policy, but members have received guerrilla and other training in Cuba; provided considerable logistical aid to Sandinistas.
	Popular Unity Movement	Small	University-based; has contacts with Cubans; supplied financial assistance and funneled arms to Sandinistas.

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Guatemalan Guerrilla Groups

The Guerrilla Army of the Poor, the country's most potent insurgent force, was formed in 1974 and now has about 300 guerrilla members and a larger number of non-combatant supporters. Like most of Guatemala's guerrilla groups, it was first organized by dissidents from the Communist Guatemalan Labor Party. It is well-structured and has the advantage of a unified national leadership under Julio Cesar Macias Mayora, alias "Cesar Montes."

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The Rebel Armed Forces has emerged from years of inactivity and become increasingly active in recent months, but it probably has fewer than 100 members now. The dissident wing of the Guatemalan Labor Party has undertaken some guerrilla activities in the past but now seems preoccupied with a power struggle with the leadership of the orthodox party.

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The Case of Honduras

The insurgent building blocks are not yet in place in Honduras. The Moscow-line Communist Party and small organizations on the far left would require at least six months under the most favorable circumstances to build a viable support structure for insurgent action.

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Several factors have helped insulate Honduras from an immediate insurgent threat. There have been three military coups in the past decade, but the country has had relatively benign military rule. Land distribution in Honduras is more equitable than in El Salvador and Guatemala. At the same time, backwardness and poverty are so pervasive that Honduras is free of the sharp economic polarization that exists, for example, in El Salvador.

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The tangential involvement of the Honduran left in the Nicaraguan revolution, however, has provided potential insurgents with valuable experience and has improved their prospects in the years ahead. The military's decision to hold a national election next April could provide a political opening to the left.

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