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Weekly Situation Report

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM



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19 August 1981

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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

2 PAGES

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ARTICLES

Clifford Bevens Found Murdered in Guatemala

Members of the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) murdered Clifford Bevens, the kidnapped American manager of the Guatemalan subsidiary of the Goodyear Tire Company, on 13 August, when Government of Guatemala security forces, unaware that Bevens was inside, raided a wooden frame safehouse in Santo Domingo Xenacoj near Santa Maria Cauque (14 38 N 90 42 W). In the firefight, five guerrillas, including two women were killed. Bevens had been kidnapped on 7 December 1980. (See the issue of 10 December 1980.)

Bevens, who was clad in pajamas, was found in an underground "people's jail"/cache with three bullet holes in his head. Guatemalan authorities speculate that the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), which originally abducted Bevens for US\$10 million ransom, recently turned Bevens over to the EGP because of the numerous raids by Guatemalan forces on ORPA safehouses. They believe ORPA ordered the EGP to kill Bevens rather than have him returned alive. Four of the guerrillas were killed while attempting to defend the site or escape. The fifth guerrilla apparently killed Bevens and then committed suicide when he realized there was no escape; his body was found near that of Bevens in the underground site.

The safehouse contained numerous weapons including five Chinese RPG-2 type rocket launchers, 60mm mortar shells, one U.S. M60 machinegun, one 57mm recoilless rifle with ammunition, and one .50 caliber machinegun. A large EGP banner was also found. Authorities believe that two .50 caliber machineguns and four 57mm recoilless rifles are still in the hands of the guerrillas.

This was one of five more guerrilla safe houses/caches raided by Guatemalan forces on 13-14 August, bringing the total to either 22 or 27, depending on the source. Guatemalan forces are taking precautions to secure the area around the sites so that innocent bystanders are not caught in the crossfire.

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