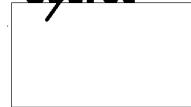


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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*



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1 June 1977

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ARTICLESSalvadoran Ambassador Released by Kidnapers

Colonel Eduardo Casanova Sandoval, El Salvador's ambassador to Guatemala since 1970, was kidnaped on 29 May by about 10 members of the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP). He was taken hostage as 1,200 delegates from about 50 countries gathered in the Guatemalan capital for the 17th annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Casanova was released on 31 May.

The ambassador and his wife were driving on a busy main street in Guatemala City early in the afternoon of 29 May when a car suddenly pulled in front of their automobile and forced them to stop. Two other cars blocked them from behind. The ambassador, who is usually accompanied by security personnel, was unguarded and unarmed. He tried to resist but was dragged into one of the kidnapers' cars and suffered a gunshot wound in the foot. No attempt was made to kidnap or injure Mrs. Casanova. The abduction was viewed by a number of people and witnesses were able to provide the license number of one of the terrorists' cars; it had been reported stolen on 14 May. Once Casanova was in the car, a hood was placed over his head and he was taken to what he thought was a farm house, where he was questioned at great length.

At about midnight on 29 May, a letter and a five-page EGP communique were delivered to the home of the Guatemalan executive director of the IDB. The covering letter, which was addressed to the president of the IDB, instructed him to have the communique read at the IDB plenary session and to have copies distributed to all delegates, observers, and guests at the meeting, as well as to the press. The letter further said that if these conditions were met, Casanova would not be killed and the participants in the assembly would "have their security guaranteed." The communique, which denounced El Salvador, the government of Guatemala and the IDB, was read at the IDB meeting on 30 May as directed by the Guerrilla Army of the Poor. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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claimed to be carrying explosives. He has requested asylum in Sweden, amid demands by the Soviet Union for his extradition. (See Article.) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date: 29 May 1977
Place: Turkey, Istanbul

Bomb Explosions in Istanbul's Airport and Train Station
A powerful bomb exploded in Istanbul's Yesilkoy airport on 29 May, killing 5 persons and injuring 42. One of the injured was a U.S. citizen. Damage to the building was extensive. A similar bomb exploded the same afternoon in the Sirkeci train station, causing one death, approximately 10 injuries, and heavily damaging the terminal building. In an anonymous telephone call to the French press agency office in Athens, the 28 May 1977 Armenian organization claimed responsibility for the bombings. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date: 29 May 1977
Place: Guatemala, Guatemala City

Salvadoran Ambassador Kidnaped in Guatemala City
Salvadoran Ambassador to Guatemala Eduardo Casanova Sandoval was kidnaped from his car in Guatemala City on 29 May by members of the Guatemalan Army of the Poor (EGP). In response to an EGP demand, a lengthy communique attacking the Salvadoran and Guatemalan governments was read on 30 May to delegates attending a meeting of the Inter-American Develop-

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ment Bank in Guatemala City.
Casanova, who was slightly
wounded during the kidnap
action, was released on 31
May. (See Article.) (UNCLAS-
SIFIED)

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