

~~Secret~~



(b)(3)



*Weekly Situation Report  
on  
International Terrorism*



(b)(3)

4 October 1978

~~Secret~~

RECORD COPY  
DDO

**SECRET**

(b)(3)

4 October 1978

Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Dies After Terrorist Attack

The 53-year-old Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala, Brigadier General (retired) Edmundo Meneses Cantarero, died on 29 September as a result of a 16 September attack in downtown Guatemala City by members of the Guatemalan Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP). The Ambassador was attacked as he was entering a barbershop a short distance from his residence. He had no bodyguards and had left his bullet-proof vest on the seat of his car.

Reports indicated that the victim had been hit by pistol and automatic weapon fire from three or four persons riding in a small white station wagon. Police reports indicated that both 9 millimeter and .30 caliber bullets were found at the scene and that 24 bullet holes were counted in surrounding buildings. While the victim was armed, he had no chance to resist or seek cover. He was struck in the lungs and spine.

A bulletin distributed to the press sometime after the incident called the action a "gesture of EGP solidarity with the Sandinist National Liberation Front's struggle", and accused the Ambassador of hiding behind his diplomatic title to coordinate mutual support between the Nicaraguan National Guard and the Guatemalan army in the Nicaraguan fight against the Sandinists. (SECRET)

4

**SECRET**

(b)(3)

RECORD COPY  
DDO

**SECRET**

(b)(3)

4 October 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 27 September 1978 Bomb Explosion at Nicaraguan  
Airline Office in Guatemala  
Place: Guatemala,  
Guatemala City On 27 September the Guatemala  
City offices of the Nicaraguan  
Airlines Company (LANICA) were  
destroyed by a time bomb. The  
bomb, placed on a glass door,  
destroyed office equipment  
and furniture and damaged  
several nearby businesses.  
The Guatemala Guerrilla Army  
of the Poor (EGP) assumed  
responsibility for the inci-  
dent. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date: 29 September 1978 Swiss Ambassador Held Hostage  
in Guatemala  
Place: Guatemala,  
Guatemala City On 29 September workers from  
Duralita, S.A., a Swiss-Guate-  
malan joint venture, took over  
the Swiss Embassy in Guatemala  
City and held the Swiss Amba-  
sador hostage. The workers  
were involved in a labor dis-  
pute over layoffs at Duralita.  
The Ambassador was released  
and the Embassy vacated when  
an agreement was reached with  
the firm on 2 October. (UN-  
CLASSIFIED)

Date: 30 September 1978 U.S. Consulate in Turkey Bomb  
Target  
Place: Turkey, Istanbul On 30 September a bomb deto-  
nated near the U.S. Consulate  
in Istanbul. There was no  
damage to the building and  
no injuries resulted; however,

A-3

**SECRET**

DDO

(b)(3)

**SECRET**

(b)(3)

4 October 1978

TERRORIST THREATS AND PLANS

Tab B includes all reasonably credible reports of planned terrorist activity. Although the reliability and access of the sources vary considerably, the threats listed are considered sufficiently plausible to warrant alertness and the use of protective security measures. However, terrorist groups often discuss general intentions or make tentative plans for violent acts that they never succeed in carrying out. In nearly all the cases listed, the intended target and appropriate governments have been informed of the threat.

\*\* Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

\* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

I. Western Hemisphere, Including the United States

Target: U.S. AMBASSADOR      Recent developments in Honduras  
U.S. EMBASSY                      at the U.S. Embassy have re-  
sulted in the tightening of  
Place: Honduras,                      security measures. In late  
Tegucigalpa                              August a night watchman was  
approached as he departed the  
Date: Unknown                              Embassy and asked questions  
about working hours of the  
Ambassador and Consul. The  
two men said they were Sand-  
inistas and spoke of getting  
a large ransom if they kidnaped  
the American Ambassador. On 24  
September an anonymous male  
telephoned the Embassy and speak-  
ing in Spanish said something  
about "explosivo--5 minutos".  
A search of the building was  
negative. (SECRET)

Target: U.S. AMBASSADOR      [redacted]      (b)(1)  
U.S. CONSUL                              [redacted] the Guerrilla Army of the      (b)(3)  
Poor (EGP) continues planning  
Place: Guatemala                              to assassinate the U.S. Amba-

B-I-1

**SECRET**RECORD COPY  
DDO

(b)(3)

**SECRET**

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

4 October 1978

Date: Unknown

sador and the U.S. Consul in Guatemala. In late June of this year there was a threat by the EGP against a diplomatic mission, the U.S. Embassy and a member of the U.S. military in the country. (See the issue of 12 July. Tab B.)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

B-I-2

**SECRET**

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

RECORD COPY  
DDO