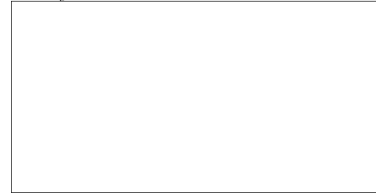




Director of  
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# National Intelligence Daily

*Thursday*  
*19 November 1981*

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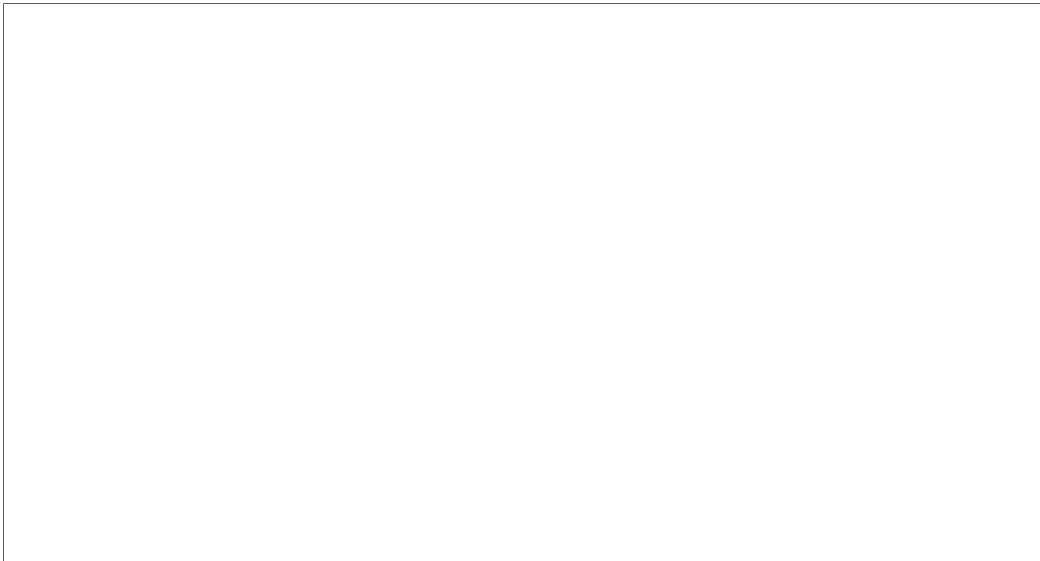


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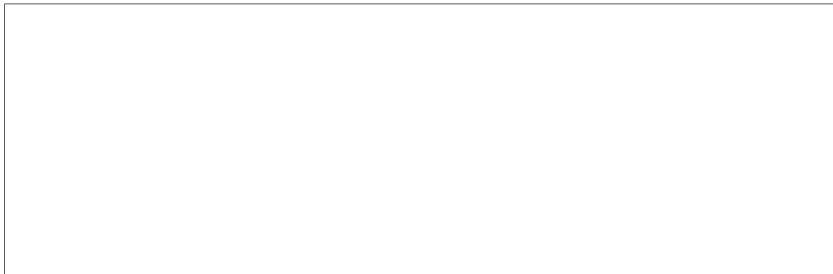


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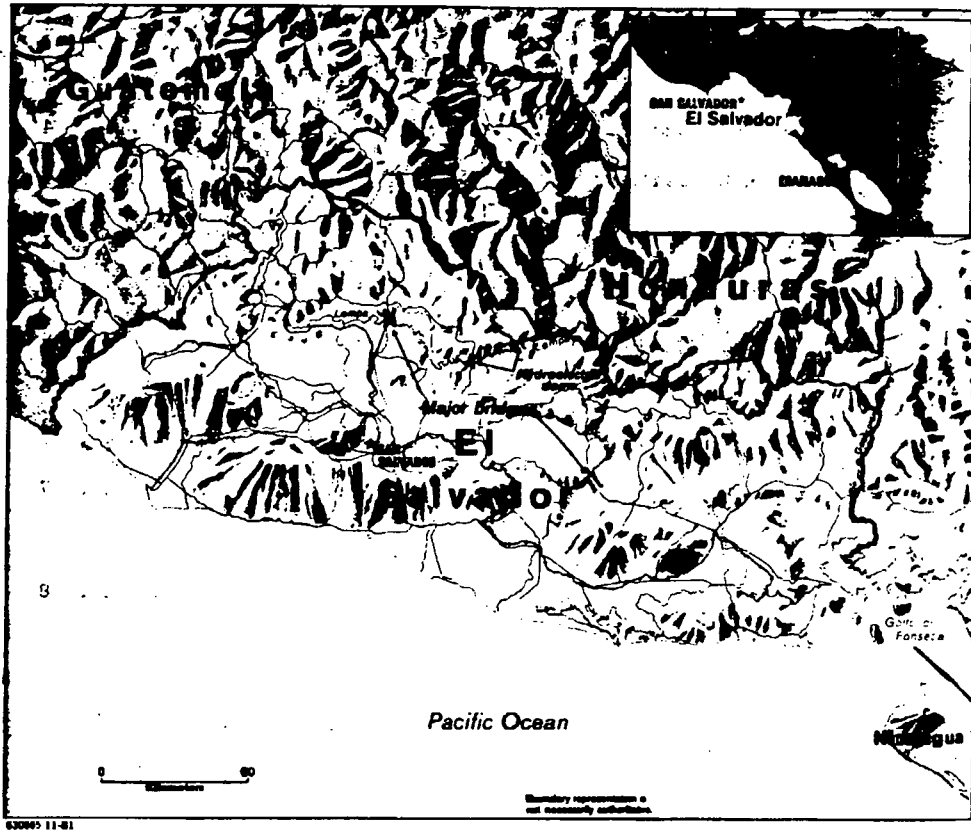
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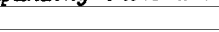
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EL SALVADOR: Impending Insurgent Offensive

*The insurgents are preparing a limited offensive to be launched before the end of the year aimed at expanding their areas of control and damaging the junta's credibility.* 

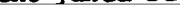
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In addition to disrupting the vital coffee, sugar, and cotton harvests, the guerrillas plan attacks on the two hydroelectric dams on the Lempa River. The dams supply half the nation's electrical power, and serious damage to them would be a major blow to the ailing economy. 


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The insurgents intend to increase their interdiction of the road system. If they cut the remaining major bridges across the Lempa River, the junta's control over much of the northern and eastern parts of the country will become tenuous. The Salvadoran military has only a limited capability to move troops by air, and without overland access to these regions, reinforcing isolated garrisons will be difficult. 

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The guerrillas also hope to seize several small towns, and they may then declare "liberated" zones in areas under their control. They have been discussing formation of a revolutionary government aimed at attracting broader domestic and international support and undermining the junta before the constituent elections next March. 

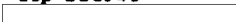
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The military, aided by improved intelligence, is attempting to preempt insurgent actions by more vigorous offensive operations, particularly against those areas near key economic and military targets. It should be able to prevent any major defeats, but the insurgents could score some spectacular local successes. 

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