



**Director of
Central
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*Wednesday
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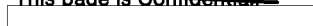
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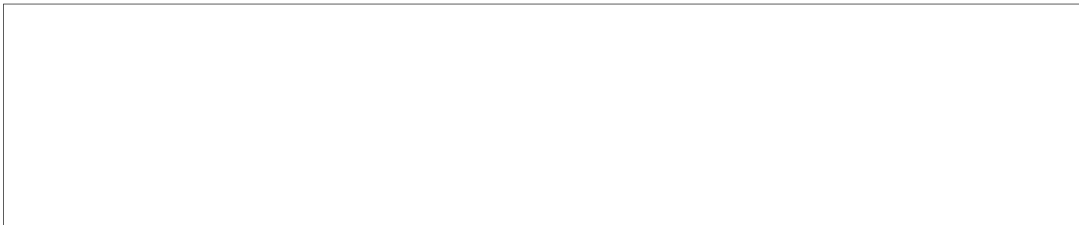
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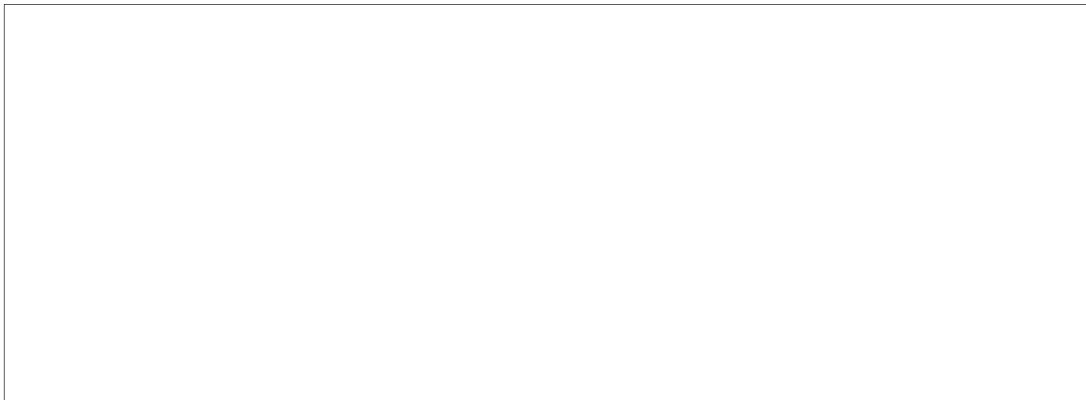
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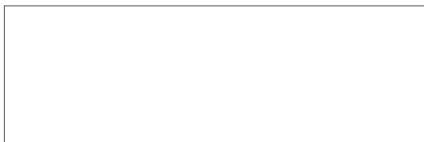


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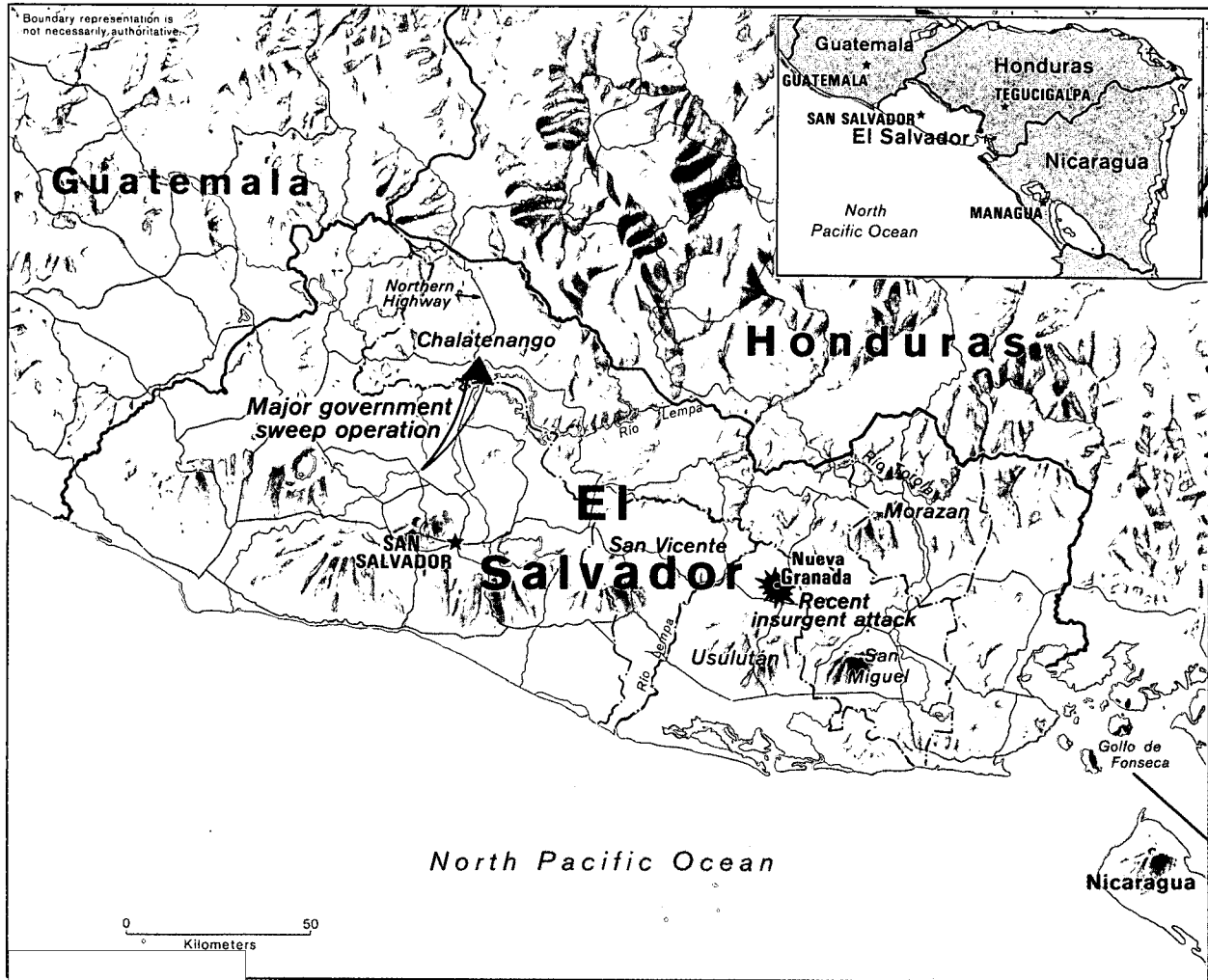


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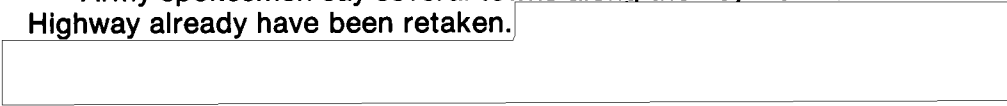
EL SALVADOR: Military Activity

Government forces over the weekend began a major sweep in northern Chalatenango Department, and they are continuing military operations throughout most of the country.



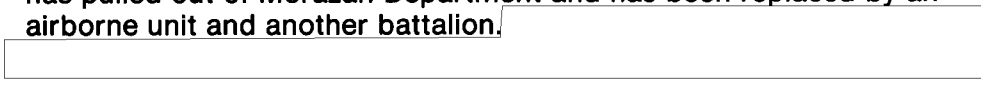
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Army spokesmen say several towns along the key Northern Highway already have been retaken.



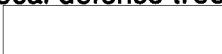
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The government has announced that the elite Atlacatl Battalion has pulled out of Morazan Department and has been replaced by an airborne unit and another battalion.

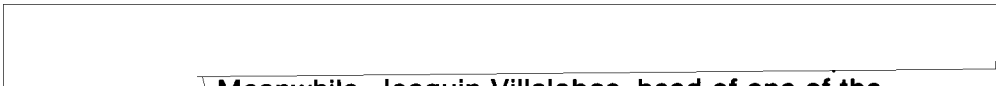


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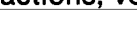
The guerrillas continue to carry out sporadic actions. Late last week insurgent forces attacked Nueva Granada in northern Usulután, allegedly killing about 13 local defense troops and capturing assorted weapons and ammunition.



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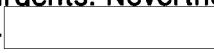
Meanwhile, Joaquin Villalobos, head of one of the largest guerrilla factions, vowed in a recently broadcast speech to intensify the war.



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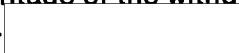
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Comment: The Army has held the tactical initiative for over a month, overrunning guerrilla base camps and retaking towns long held by the insurgents. Nevertheless, the guerrillas' losses generally have been light.



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Villalobos's warning indicates the insurgents still plan to strike back soon. They may take advantage of the withdrawal of the Atlacatl Battalion to hit hard in the east.



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WEST GERMANY-EL SALVADOR: Appointment of Ambassador

The West German Government has announced its intention to send an ambassador to San Salvador in the near future during former President Duarte's visit to Bonn, but it probably will wait until after the presidential election in El Salvador scheduled for later this year. Since 1980, West Germany has been represented in San Salvador by a chargé d'affaires. 

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Comment: Waiting until the election would allow the West Germans to claim that the democratic process in El Salvador had reached the point where full diplomatic representation was merited. If Bonn were to send an ambassador now, the government's critics would be more prone to claim that it was supporting a rightwing regime guilty of human rights abuses. In addition, Bonn does not want to move too far ahead of other West European countries on this matter. The government also may resume development aid to El Salvador—frozen since 1980—but any such move almost certainly would be balanced by continuing aid to Nicaragua. 

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