



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

20 March 1981

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CO NIDC 81-065C

20 March 1981

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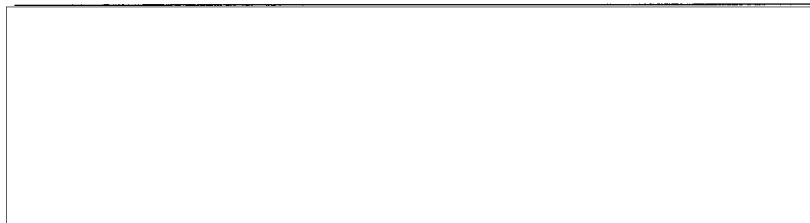
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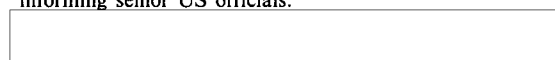
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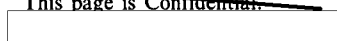
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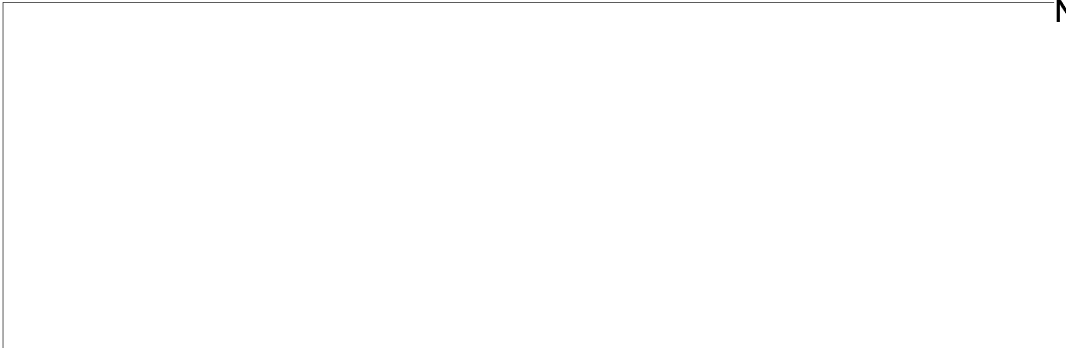
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NR Record



El Salvador: *Balance of Forces*. 2

NR Record



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EL SALVADOR: Balance of Forces

//Sweep operations by government forces appear to be slowing insurgent efforts to regroup and rearm, but the guerrillas have not committed all their reserve forces and still expect increased weapons shipments.// [redacted]

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Government forces this week carried out their 15th counterinsurgency sweep since mid-January in central and northern El Salvador. San Salvador claims to have killed at least 50 subversives during these sweeps. [redacted]

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[redacted] The insurgents, on the other hand, claim costly casualties have been inflicted on government troops. [redacted]

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//To improve its counterinsurgency capability, the Salvadoran military is trying to standardize its weapons inventory and restructure its forces. The plans are based on the acquisition of large amounts of US-supplied arms, including 13,000 M-16 rifles and more US training. Plans also call for a new rapid reaction force of perhaps 10 infantry companies--1,500 troops--to augment the current manpower of 16,000.// [redacted]

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Status of Insurgents

Some 3,000 to 4,000 full-time guerrillas are distributed among five vaguely defined battle fronts. Several thousand more part-time irregulars may augment the primary forces. The current slowdown in external supply to the insurgents, together with government counterinsurgency sweeps, however, has reduced the level of major guerrilla operations. These factors will be debilitating over time, but have not yet critically affected the potential of the guerrillas. Their present manpower resources and relatively sophisticated operational capabilities will enable them to continue their war of attrition for an extended period of time, even with present stores. [redacted]

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In the last week, 200-man insurgent units assaulted government posts in three widely separated locations. Current government sweep-and-clear operations are still apparently only disrupting insurgent timetables and have not delivered any telling defeats. [redacted]

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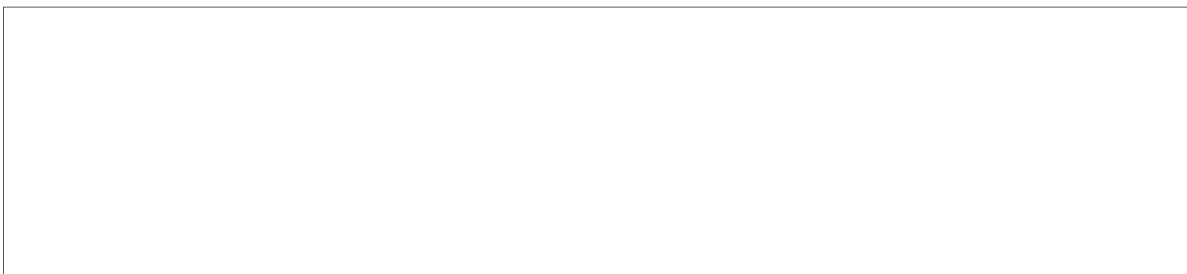
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The guerrillas have gradually become better trained.



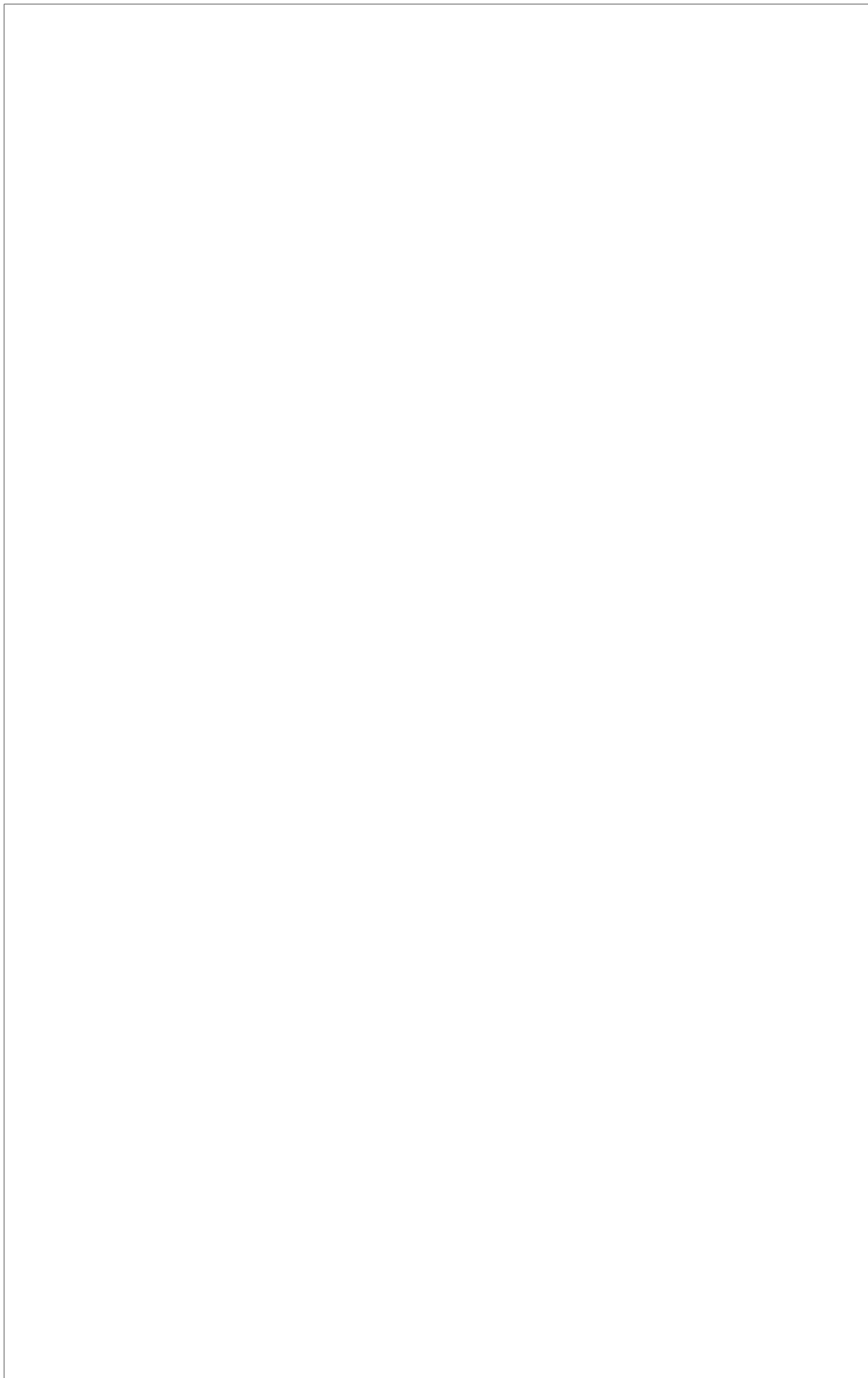
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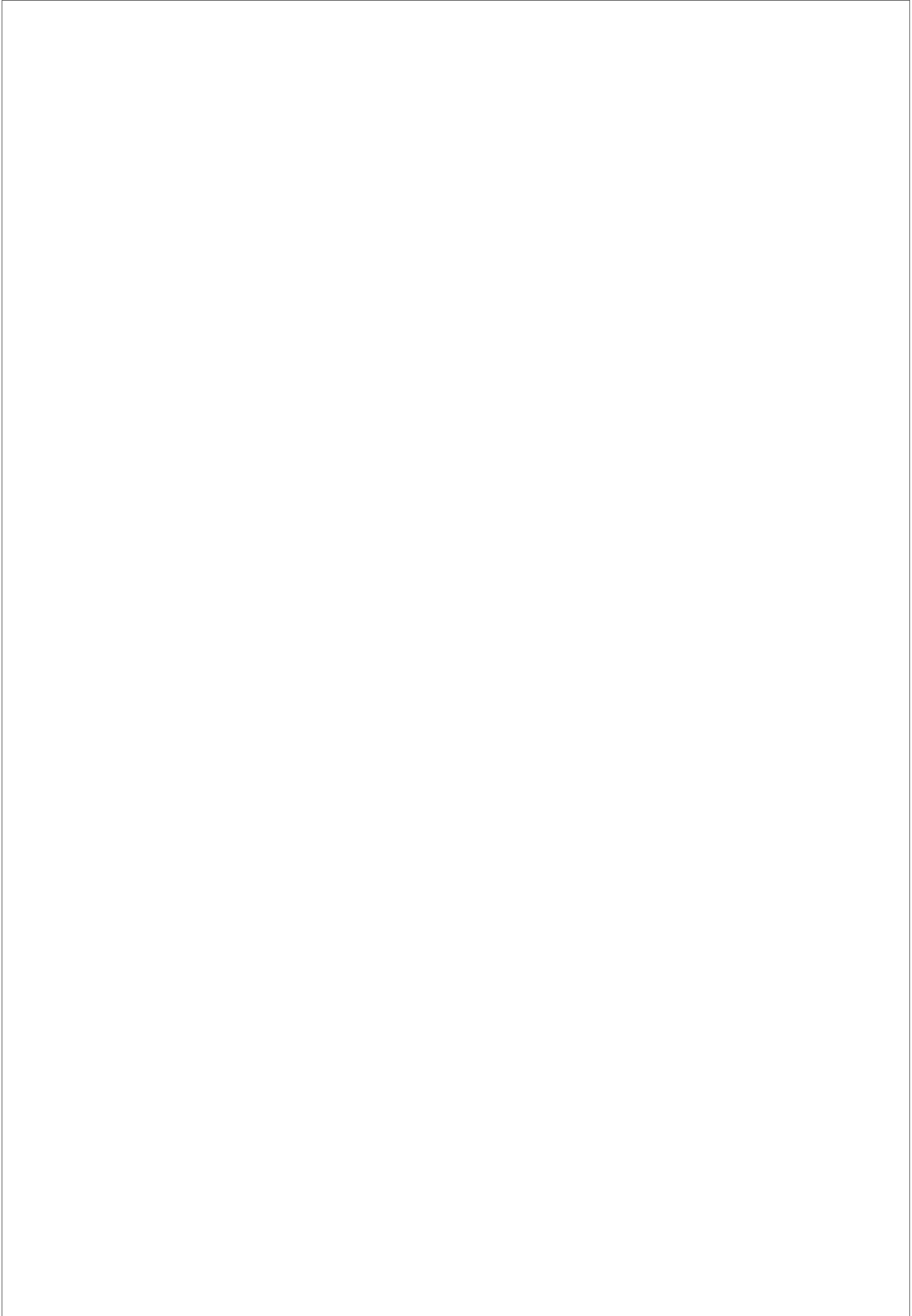
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