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8 FEB 80

EL SALVADOR:

New Terrorist Campaign

Leftist guerrillas appear intent on staging more terrorist attacks in the capital, and killings by rightwing death squads have picked up in the past week. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reports that guerrillas late last month photographed a US citizen who previously had been targeted for killing and were awaiting approval from the rebel leadership before making an attack. [REDACTED] says the guerrillas are watching other US personnel and are combing the same area of San Salvador where 13 people—including six US citizens—were killed last June.

[REDACTED] a terrorist plan to attack the chief of the US military advisory group. An [REDACTED] in the plan said the attack—a bombing of the officer's residence—would be coordinated between two urban guerrilla groups.

[REDACTED] guerrillas are planning to place bombs in the San Salvador area.

[REDACTED] one of the rebel groups has [REDACTED] in the metropolitan area who are prepared to step up urban violence.

Meanwhile, rightwing death squads are presumed responsible for the murders of seven Salvadorans over the past week. Authorities discovered the bodies of four peasants this week; last Sunday the bodies of three young men were found in San Salvador.

Comment: The guerrillas appear intent on stepping up violence in the capital following government military pressure on rebel bases in rural areas. The rightist violence, possibly in response to peasant and labor unrest over a series of unpopular economic measures President Duarte imposed last month, may continue to grow. If the left carries out its plans for urban violence, elements of the extreme right are likely to respond with similar methods.

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