



Directorate of  
Intelligence

~~Secret~~ 2/5/91

(M)

[REDACTED]

# Terrorism Review [REDACTED]

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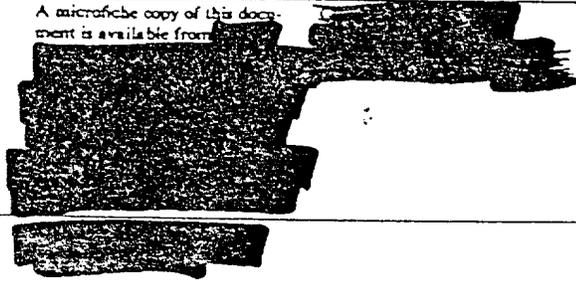
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Latin America

The Mormon Church in South America—A Terrorist Target [REDACTED]  
Since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East, indigenous leftists and previously unknown groups throughout South America have attacked or threatened Mormon churches to protest US policy in the Persian Gulf, broadening an already extensive pattern of anti-Mormon attacks. Mormon interests have frequently been attacked in Latin America as a soft US target. Terrorist groups associate the church with the US Government, view its activities as imperialistic, and often link it to the CIA in their claims. (b)(3)

From 1988 through 1990, Mormon churches were attacked by indigenous leftist terrorist groups nearly 90 times. Most of these incidents have been low-level attacks and have occurred in Chile, but several have taken the lives of Mormons and completely destroyed churches. In May 1989, for example, two US Mormon missionaries were killed in La Paz, Bolivia, by the Zarate Willka terrorist organization, and in 1990 two Peruvian Mormon missionaries were killed in Lima, Peru, by the Sendero Luminoso. Even in Chile, the incidents have occasionally resulted in the total destruction of churches or serious threats to the missionaries themselves. (b)(3)

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