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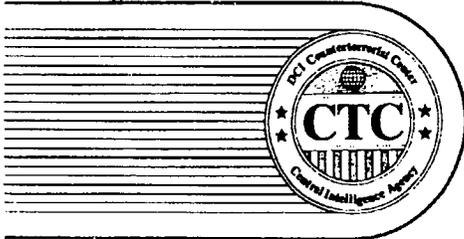
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Director of Central Intelligence



Terrorism Review



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November 1992

Counterterrorist Center

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Latin America: Columbus Day Violence Muted [Redacted]

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Terrorist groups conducted a variety of attacks in mid-October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the Americas. The level of violence was lower than anticipated in many countries, however, because of heightened security and the lack of official celebrations. [Redacted]

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Chronology of Terrorism 1992

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**Latin America: Columbus Day
Violence Muted** [redacted]

Terrorist groups conducted a variety of attacks in mid-October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the Americas, but the level of violence was lower than anticipated in many countries because of heightened security and the lack of official celebrations. Latin American terrorists carried out some 20 minor bombings, primarily against government facilities and symbolic US and Spanish targets; the attacks caused property damage, but no deaths. Most anti-US attacks in Latin America occurred in Chile, where terrorists bombed five Mormon chapels and a Citibank office. The most serious anti-US incident was a failed mortar attack by Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) on the US Ambassador's residence in Lima. Indian and leftist groups also held mostly peaceful marches and demonstrations throughout Latin America to gain media exposure for their causes. Quincentennial-related violence outside the region consisted of several bombings and violent demonstrations in the Dominican Republic, the bombing of the Peruvian Consulate in Turkey by Dev Sol, and a violent protest in San Francisco, California, where demonstrators burned police vehicles. [redacted]

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Chile

Chilean terrorists conducted several low-intensity bombings against Spanish and US targets to commemorate the Columbus Day anniversary. Although the bombings caused limited property damage and one injury, they represented the first significant round of attacks against foreigners in Chile since 1991, when the Chilean terrorists conducted a series of anti-US attacks to protest US involvement in the Persian Gulf. On 7 October, a bomb exploded at a Spanish sports club in Santiago. The following day, terrorists threw two small bombs at the Spanish Embassy, causing minor property damage. The ensuing firefight between the attackers and Embassy guards injured one passer-by. Terrorists also bombed a Spanish bank. Anti-US attacks consisted of bombings of a Citibank office and five Mormon chapels. The United Popular

Action Movement/Lautaro (MAPU/L), a leftist terrorist group that frequently targets Mormon chapels, claiming they are instruments of US imperialism, took credit for bombing at least two of the chapels. MAPU/L also claimed responsibility for the Citibank attack. [redacted]

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Bolivia

Subdued Columbus Day protests in Bolivia belied government fears of terrorist attacks and widespread Indian violence. [redacted]

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[redacted] The only terrorist attack during the Columbus Day anniversary occurred in Cochabamba in central Bolivia, where a bomb damaged the Palace of Justice. No group claimed credit for the attack. Indian groups held large rallies and marches in major cities, but few violent incidents were reported. In La Paz, 20,000 to 25,000 peasants, miners, students, and union members conducted a peaceful march past the US Embassy, shouting anti-US and anti-Spanish chants. Bolivian security officials adopted a nonconfrontational approach toward the protesters to avoid provoking violence. Marchers in La Paz also convened the first "Assembly of Original Peoples," but rainy weather and the inability of the many groups attending to reconcile their conflicting agendas quickly broke up the meeting. [redacted]

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Ecuador

Columbus Day also passed relatively peacefully in Ecuador, where officials had feared widespread violence by Indian groups. [redacted] only two serious incidents during the Quincentennial;

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one woman was struck and killed by a car that ran through a roadblock, and another person died during an attempt by Indians to take over a cooperative farm. Protest activities consisted of traffic disruptions along highways in the Andean highlands and several marches and rallies throughout the country. [redacted]

(b)(1) [redacted] Indian groups constructed roadblocks, dug trenches in the road, and dynamited a section of the Pan-American Highway near Quito to slow vehicle traffic. Large demonstrations were reported throughout the highlands, but fewer protesters than expected attended a planned rally in Quito. Inclement weather kept many people home, while troops stationed along the highways slowed the marchers' progress toward the capital. [redacted]

Colombia

Violence during the Columbus Day weekend was limited largely to several low-intensity bombings as [redacted]

(b)(1) [redacted] In Bogota, four bombs exploded near police stations on 11 October. [redacted]

(b)(1) [redacted] Terrorists also bombed statues of King Ferdinand and Isabella. The guerrillas, who began their nationwide offensive on 20 October, may have delayed their attacks because of heightened security or may have intentionally sought to confuse the military by launching attacks after their announced starting date of the offensive. [redacted]

Peru

(b)(3) Both of Peru's active insurgent groups, Sendero Luminoso (SL) and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), conducted attacks over the Columbus Day weekend. MRTA marked the anniversary by launching several low-risk, standoff attacks against Peruvian, US, and Spanish targets. SL's attacks, which included selective assassinations and the massacre of 48 Andean villagers, took place one month after the capture of SL leader Abimael Guzman and do not appear to have been directly related to the Columbus Day anniversary. [redacted]

MRTA—in an apparent attempt to boost morale among its combatants and prove its continued viability—conducted the most spectacular anti-US incident during the Quincentennial by firing four mortar rounds on the US Ambassador's residence in Lima on 10 October. All of the rounds missed their mark; one fell in a nearby park and two exploded outside the residence's perimeter wall, causing little damage. The following day, MRTA conducted a mortar attack against the Peruvian Presidential Palace that also missed its target. On 13 October, MRTA members took control of a UPI office in Lima and broadcast a prerecorded tape in which the group claimed credit for the two mortar attacks and the bombing of a Spanish bank in Lima. The message also denounced Columbus, the government, and the upcoming national election. [redacted]

Dominican Republic

Leftist groups staged strikes and demonstrations and conducted several minor bombings to protest the Dominican Republic's lavish official Columbus Day celebrations, which included the interment of Columbus's alleged remains at a new, multimillion-dollar lighthouse built in his honor. Protesters staged violent demonstrations in several cities after police shot and killed a demonstrator on 20 September. In Santiago, masked youths protesting "500 years of extermination" burned tires and clashed with the security forces. In another city, confrontations between police and protesters resulted in the injury of 10 policemen and one demonstrator. Bombs damaged three hotels and a cathedral in the capital on 6 October. The attacks may have been conducted by the Dominican Communist Party (PCD), which reportedly planned a wave of urban bombings to disrupt the Quincentennial celebrations. [redacted]

The Collective of Popular Organizations (COP), a peasant labor group, organized a series of labor strikes during the period of the 500th anniversary celebrations. Strikes in three cities resulted in pipe bombings aimed primarily against government buildings. A pipe bomb thrown from a motorcycle in Esperanza wounded four young girls. Although a bomb was thrown at a Coca-Cola truck that failed to honor one strike, the strikes were not targeted against US interests. [redacted]

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Turkey

One day after the Columbus anniversary, a small bomb exploded at the Peruvian Consulate in Istanbul, causing minor damage. Dev Sol took credit for the attack, claiming solidarity with Sendero Luminoso and denouncing the alleged mistreatment of captured SL leader, Abimael Guzman. Less than a week before the attack, approximately 80 Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and Dev Sol sympathizers conducted a pro-SL demonstration in front of the Consulate. Dev Sol has no known operational links to SL, but is often motivated by international events and probably conducted the pro-SL attack around the time of the Columbus anniversary to gain publicity for its cause. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Lithuania

In Vilnius, 22 people from the Gediminas Youth Movement, a group that advocates the return to Lithuania's pre-Christian pagan traditions, staged a peaceful demonstration outside the US Ambassador's residence in Vilnius on 12 October, denouncing Columbus and alleged US Government oppression of Native Americans. [redacted]

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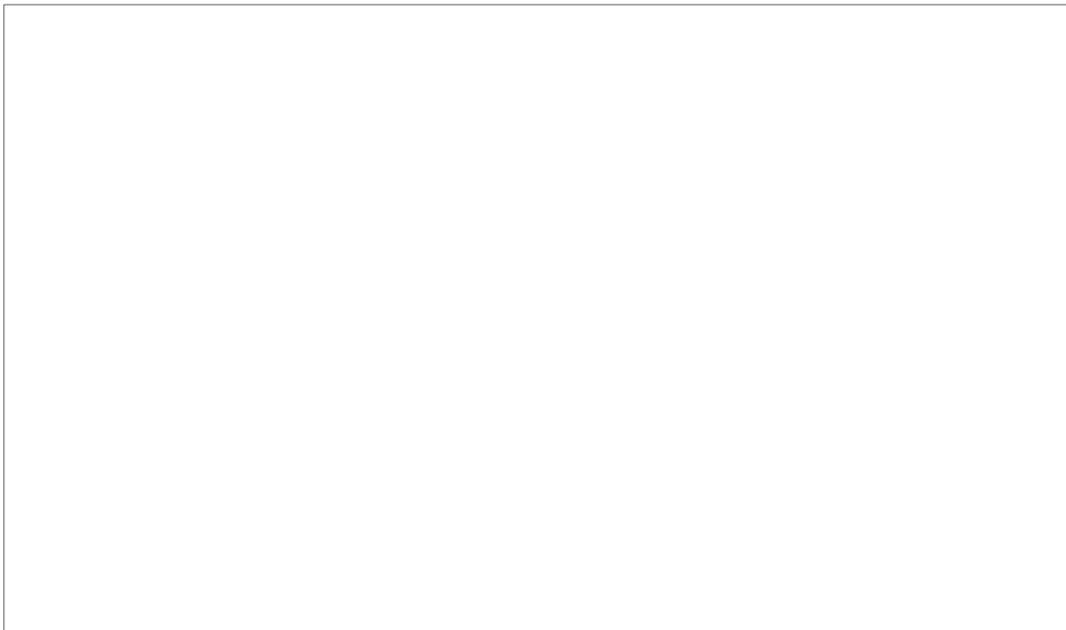
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Latin America



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Colombia

British Hostage Killed

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) insurgents apparently killed Peter Arthur Kessler, a British businessman, during a rescue attempt by the military on 24 October. [redacted] A government spokesman stated that the FARC insurgents killed Kessler to facilitate their escape from a pursuing Army unit. It is possible, however, that Kessler was caught in a crossfire between the two forces. FARC insurgents frequently kidnap employees of foreign-owned corporations to obtain large ransoms, usually releasing them unharmed after their demands are met. The Colombian military has been criticized in the past for its heavyhanded rescue methods that often have led to serious injuries or death to kidnap victims. [redacted]

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