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Country Profile

Guatemala

March 1973

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY PUBLICATIONS

The basic unit of the NIS is the *General Survey*, which is now published in a bound-by-chapter format so that topics of greater perishability can be updated on an individual basis. These chapters—Country Profile, The Society, Government and Politics, The Economy, Military Geography, Transportation and Telecommunications, Armed Forces, Science, and Intelligence and Security, provide the primary NIS coverage. Some chapters, particularly Science and Intelligence and Security, that are not pertinent to all countries, are produced selectively. For small countries requiring only minimal NIS treatment, the *General Survey* coverage may be bound into one volume.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2009/06/16: CIA-RDP01-00707R000200110046-3

GENERAL SURVEY CHAPTERS

COUNTRY PROFILE Integrated perspective of the subject country • Chronology • Area brief • Summary map

THE SOCIETY Social structure • Population • Labor • Health • Living conditions • Social problems • Religion • Education • Public information • Artistic expression

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Political evolution of the state • Governmental strength and stability • Structure and function • Political dynamics • National policies • Threats to stability • The police • Intelligence and security • Counter-subversion and counterinsurgency capabilities

THE ECONOMY Appraisal of the economy • Its structure—agriculture, fisheries, forestry, fuels and power, metals and minerals, manufacturing and construction • Domestic trade • Economic policy and development • International economic relations

TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS Appraisal of systems • Strategic mobility • Railroads • Highways • Inland waterways • Ports • Merchant marine • Civil air • Airfields • The telecom system

MILITARY GEOGRAPHY Topography and climate • Military geographic regions • Strategic areas • Internal routes • Approaches: land, sea, air

ARMED FORCES The defense establishment • Joint activities • Ground forces • Naval forces • Air forces

This General Survey supersedes the one dated January 1969, copies of which should be destroyed.

Country Profile **GUATEMALA**

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This Country Profile was prepared for the NIS by the Central Intelligence Agency. Research was substantially completed by January 1973.

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Our lords most esteemed most high
your journey has been hard and long
to reach this land

we who are humble
we who are ignorant
look at you

what is it that we should say?
what is it that your ears want to hear?
can there be meaning
in what we say to you?

we are common people
because of our god-of-the-near-and-far
because of him
we dare to speak
we exhale his breath and his words
his air
for him and in his name
we dare to speak to you
despite the danger

perhaps we will be taken to our ruin
we are ordinary people
we can be killed
we can be destroyed
what are we to do?

allow us to die
let us perish now
since our gods are already dead

wait be calm our lords
we will break open
a little

we will open
a little
the secret of our god-who-is

you say
that we do not know
the right god
the god who owns the heavens
and the earth

you say
our god is not a true god

we are disturbed
we are troubled by these words

our people
who lived upon the earth before us
did not speak
in this way
they taught us their way of life

hear us o lords
do not harm our people
do not destroy them
be calm and friendly
consider these matters o lords

we cannot accept your words
we cannot accept your teachings as truth
even though this may offend you
we cannot agree
that our gods are wrong

is it not enough that we have already lost
that our way of life has been taken away?
is that not enough?

this is all we can say
this is our answer
to your words o lords

do with us
as you please

Change has not come easily to Guatemala, beginning with the clash centuries ago between conquistadores and the native culture there and elsewhere in Central America. After the Spanish conquest, twelve friars were sent to convert "New Spain" to Christianity. Their dramatic encounter with Indian elders in 1524 was recorded in a famous manuscript, El Libro de los Colloquios. This is a portion of the Indian delegation's opening statement.

Mayan temple at Tikal, one of many in Guatemala



A Land Divided

The ancient Mayan ruins found throughout Guatemala are all that remain of a once unified and advanced Indian civilization. The descendants of these people remain, but their place in society has been altered downward by time and events. Guatemala today is grossly divided culturally, economically, and politically, and the gap between the divisions is so great that the country really encompasses different worlds. About 2% of the people own more than two-thirds of the agricultural land, and the political and economic influence of this group extends back throughout the era of the conquistadores and most of the 19th century. Guatemala entered the modern world with virtually no democratic tradition, with a population that was mostly illiterate, with a social structure that retains vestigial aspects of the feudal stage, and with a rigidly observed cultural gap between the major racial groups. The present-day descendants of the Mayas are generally considered inferior, not only by the elite but by the rest of the society as well. (C)

Institutionalized Separatism (c)

At the top of the socio-economic scale in Guatemala is the landed aristocracy, many members of which—in addition to their blood ties with pre-Columbian Spain—can trace links with each other, in the manner of the European nobility. Second- and third-cousinship has frequently been the basis for relationships in the worlds of politics or business. A family link to the heads of the economic empires is not to be taken lightly, for in Guatemala the wealthy are very wealthy indeed. Family landholdings are seldom broken up upon the death of the patriarch but are retained in the family and operated as a joint venture. The same concept has applied in a general way to other economic activities—banking and finance, for example, and industrial entrepreneurship.

The primary basis for family fortunes, however, still is land. To the Guatemalan elite, land is not only superior to cash or any other form of capital, it is the necessary antecedent to any other form of wealth, or for that matter, prestige and social acceptability. Thus, the value of land does not relate to its productivity. In the absence of birthright, the only other pathway to social status is the acquisition of money. The small merchant class that existed through the centuries to serve the elite and the professionals such as doctors and lawyers have filled a small but important second place. This middle class group is expanding and—since the internationalization of commerce by the big U.S. companies such as United Fruit—has become politically influential as well as moderately wealthy. Nevertheless, wealth and power, even in limited amounts, have come to only a small segment of Guatemalan society. Many in the lower class live on

the borderline between poverty and starvation. Some have abandoned their rural homes in favor of life in the urban slums, but most of them are still working their small landholdings.



Estimates of Guatemala's racial composition are extremely difficult because the official census figures are categorized by cultural differences. The terms *indigena* and *ladino* are used in Guatemala to indicate members of the Indian and non-Indian cultures, respectively, but the distinction has little to do with racial background in their housing, dress, and language. The customs and habits of these Indians clearly have been changed by four centuries of European occupation, but the Indians now living in Guatemala remain one of the purest strains of pre-Columbian peoples in the Western Hemisphere—not only in their bloodlines but also in their culture, living habits, and language. *Ladinos*, on the other hand, may be racially classifiable as Indians but have adopted non-Indian clothing and customs. *Ladinos* speak Spanish as either a first or second language (second after their parents' Indian language) and usually purport to scorn their *indigena* antecedents.

There is a slow evolution from the *indigena* culture to *ladino* status, but only on an individual basis. A sharp distinction exists in the social status of the Indians and that of the *ladinos*, however poverty-stricken and uncultured. The Indians occupy a position of utter inferiority. They tend to accept this social position, however, with stoic equanimity. The Indian's chief characteristic is a tremendous apathy towards activity he considers unnecessary. He displays a defensive and lethargically passive resistance to *ladino* culture, and the Mayan tradition of long ago is today a stronger governing influence on his life than any institutional influence that was superimposed upon it. Only rarely do the Indian and the *ladino* worlds touch, and then only in carefully stylized encounters such as those at the marketplace; the individuals involved never lose their sense of separateness.

It is this separateness that is the strongest barrier to a cohesive, integrated national society. The two groups exist side-by-side, each culturally complete and totally distinct from the other and for the most part indifferent to both the fact and the ramifications of it.

The *indigena* culture is far from cohesive in any national sense. Each community of Indians is unique, cohesive only in the tribal sense through the perpetuation of traditional customs, distinctive clothing styles, and use of the local dialect—which is generally incomprehensible to most other Indians as well as *ladinos* and tends to further seal off the users. Only the *ladinos* have a sense of national consciousness.

Reform, Reaction, and Terrorism (c)

Guatemala's modernization began with the election to the presidency in 1944 of Juan Jose Arevalo, a scholar who had spent the duration of the Ubico dictatorship (1931-44) in exile as a professor in Argentina. Arevalo was Guatemala's first freely elected President. He ran on a reform program and won a resounding 85% of the votes cast. He successfully campaigned for a new constitution, which was adopted in 1945 and provided for the establishment of a social welfare program and for the state orientation of the economy. Arevalo's government attempted to incorporate the Indians into national life, promoted education and sanitation, and established labor courts and a social security system. Restoration of civil liberties encouraged the formation and growth of political parties, labor unions, and agricultural workers' organizations. With the 1951 inauguration of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, Arevalo became the second President to complete a full 6-year term and then retire upon the election of his successor. The first was Jose Lisandro Barrillas (1886-92); the third and only other one was Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro (1966-70).

During the Arbenz administration (1951-54), agricultural workers' associations grew in size and influence and an agrarian reform law was passed in 1953. Arbenz attempted to limit the powers and privileges of three North American companies—the United Fruit Company, International Railroads of Central America, and the Bond and Share Electric Company—which under Ubico had assumed a large role in Guatemalan life. No restrictions were placed on the activities of the Communist party, legally registered in 1952 as the Guatemalan Labor Party

(PGT). Its members infiltrated the ranks of the government to a point that by 1954 it was widely assumed in the U.S. Government that Guatemala soon would be completely under the control of Communists.

The single most important act of the Arbenz administration may have been the expropriation of some 414,000 acres of idle land belonging to the United Fruit Company. As could be expected in perhaps any country, this was the core issue that brought about the confrontation between the government and the landowners. A rightist activist movement was formed, backed in part by the Dominican dictator Trujillo, and in June 1954 this counterrevolutionary force "invaded" Guatemala from Honduras, led by Col. Carlos Castillo Armas. In an excess of what many people termed as being anti-Communist zeal, the new regime arrested 2,000 people or more. The expropriated land was returned, civil liberties were abrogated, and almost three-fourths of the population disenfranchised. With the secret ballot abolished, Castillo had himself elected President in a one-candidate plebiscite by voice vote before armed soldiers.

The Castillo regime nullified the agrarian reform law and set up its own program. It disbanded the existing labor unions but eventually sponsored the establishment of new unions. All the existing political parties were outlawed, and the National Democratic Movement (MDN) was established as the official governmental party. Three years later political turmoil erupted following the assassination of Castillo.

The next presidential election, in January 1958, was won by Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, a general and a governor under the old Ubico regime. During his administration, increased chaos and corruption brought all government programs to a virtual standstill. Both leftists and rightists were plotting against the government. Then, late in March 1963, the brief return to the political scene of former President Arevalo touched off demonstrations of support and provided the military with all the justification it needed to overthrow Ydigoras and assume power. The military junta of Col. Enrique Peralta Azurdias that followed lasted for 3 years.

With guerrilla activity on the rise, Peralta declared a state of siege in 1963. It was lifted the next year, but was reimposed early in 1965 following terrorist attacks. In the ensuing months, a return to constitutional government was announced. Shortly thereafter the siege was again lifted. In 1966 Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro was chosen as President and Peralta

stepped down. Mendez gave the army almost free rein to combat counterinsurgency as guerrillas continued to pose a serious threat to the government; counterterrorism reached a new plateau during his administration.

The political uncertainty and instability that had prevailed since 1954 had set the stage for extremism and provided a backdrop for the terrorist politics that were to become standard. Armed rebels, led by dissident junior officers from the Guatemalan military, prodded the Communists away from a polemical theorizing into active insurgency.

Although the guerrillas have been active under one title or another since November 1960, the most familiar name is *Fuerzas Armadas Rebeldes* (Rebel Armed Forces—FAR). This group evolved from others that had been active since 1960 and began operations in 1963. The FAR's principal effort was directed toward rural targets until the campaign by the military during Mendez's administration began to be effective. From 1966 to 1968 the guerrillas, who had failed to receive support from the peasants in the countryside and who had failed to outgrow the organizational squabbling that prevented attainment of any political effec-



tiveness, found themselves on the defensive and facing an increasingly bitter counterinsurgency campaign. By early 1968, FAR's rural capability had been practically eliminated and the center of extremist activities had shifted to Guatemala City, the capital. The FAR guerrillas took time out to give themselves better training and preparation and to tighten up the security of their organization. Even while they were doing this, they maintained their capability for hit-and-run terrorist action, and in 1968 carried out two spectacular acts, both directed against the U.S. presence in the country: the murder of two members of the U.S. Military Assistance Group and of the U.S. Ambassador.

Lesser terrorist incidents were almost incessant during 1968 and 1969. Violence increased in frequency and scope late in 1969 when the campaign for the presidential election of March 1970 began in earnest. Col. Carlos Arana Osorio, the candidate of a conservative coalition, took up the challenge and ran successfully on a somber law-and-order platform. He was the champion of the far right and the leader of the counterterror approach to subversion that was so successful in Zacapa Province from 1966 to 1968. Acts of terrorism in the closing days of the campaign—including the dramatic kidnaping of Foreign Minister Alberto Fuentes Mohr—undoubtedly helped elect him, although Arana garnered only 42% of the popular vote.

Following Arana's inauguration, he appealed for a ceasefire and offered amnesty, but soon thereafter the tempo of terrorism and counterterrorism increased. A state of siege was declared in November 1970, and soon the leftists were weak, divided, disoriented, and either unwilling or unable to continue the deadly competition. Although terrorist incidents have decreased sharply, the present impuissance of the leftists may be only temporary.

Vestiges of ideological warfare remain in the conflict—even the moderate among today's leftist political leaders still identify with the revolution of 1944 and nurture a sense of denied legitimacy. The rightist forces continue to identify with the counterrevolutionary Castillo, and indeed many of today's government leaders served in his administration. They tend to lump all opposition in the Communist bag. Each side fears the other as the mortal enemy. And treating each other as enemies thus encourages other rounds of personal and political violence.

Bridging the Chasm (c)

Remnants of the modernization and reform programs begun in earnest under Arevalo in 1944 have become the bases for some of those put forward by the present administration. President Arana, in his campaign speeches, in his inaugural address, and in his public utterances since inauguration, has never failed to express his concern for the welfare of the people and his determination to effect an improvement in their living conditions.

Arana has pledged greater technical assistance and bank credits to farmers, more job opportunities and better educational and health facilities for the masses, and administrative reform and improvement of the civil service. His administration is trying to fulfill those pledges. In addition, Arana began implementing the comprehensive 5-year development plan prepared by the Mendez government.

Following the Mendez plan, Arana has taken steps to increase domestic tax revenues and the investment budget. He has stressed social services and agricultural development. Administrative reform legislation has been passed, and the government has embarked on an ambitious rural electrification and rural public health program. The government also is promoting agricultural research and reforming the rural credit system.

It is far too soon to pronounce the problems solved. For one thing, there are years of inertia to overcome; for another, Arana simply cannot afford to abandon entirely the powerful vested interests that resist change. But he will undoubtedly achieve sufficient progress to prevent any significant increase in the popular appeal of the insurgents. He may pursue an even

more vigorous reform program, but one stopping short of accelerating social and economic change at a rate that would alienate the tightly knit and highly conservative oligarchy. Even if such a course were attempted, its implementation would be made exceedingly difficult because of the government's shortage of managerial skills and money.

The present situation in Guatemala could continue with little change for an indefinite but possibly lengthy period. The war between left and right, interrupted from time to time by a truce brought on by fatigue as much as any other cause, probably could drag on for another generation. Killings by terrorists at the present level inhibit but do not eliminate political activity, and in spite of the personal grief brought to a few, the body politic can become, and probably is becoming, inured to the violence. Indeed, such inurement may help end the terrorism; to the extent that its shock value has decreased, its perpetrators may conclude the terrorism has lost its real effectiveness.

The government could fall into the hands of the extreme right or the extreme left. In either case the net result probably would be to drive the center away from the governing extreme—if the government reverts to the rightists, most of the moderates will look to the left for salvation, and vice versa. Such an extreme government might have surface features that would appear to be new, but the underlying problems in Guatemala would remain. And because the opposition would tend to be adverse to compromise or cooperation, an extreme government probably would be short-lived.

Guatemala could be taken over by a military-led revolt that would inhibit democratic government and embark upon a centrally directed program of social reform, such as happened in Peru. Junior and middle level officers in Guatemala's army have been engaging in a variety of welfare activities under the aegis of the civic action program, and many of the officers, perhaps a majority, have developed a new sensitivity to the country's problems. However, the Guatemalan officer corps appears to lack the background and the

commitment to reform that Peruvian officers have displayed, and the institution of a benign military regime seems unlikely in the short term.

It is possible, too, that a much more reform-minded civilian government—left of center but non-Communist—might be elected to office and not precipitate an effort to overthrow it by force. Such a development seems unlikely at present but is by no means impossible and is a measure of the changes that, however gradual, have occurred in Guatemala over the past two decades. Indeed, it may be that Guatemala's revolution under Arevalo and Arbenz—at least its program, apart from the Communist infiltration—failed not so much because it was too radical but because it was implemented too soon. It might be tolerated today, and probably would not be considered extreme by the majority of informed members of Guatemala's body politic.

Perhaps all future governments will strive diligently to overcome problems such as those posed by the massive rural population that is undernourished, ill-housed, illiterate and generally unproductive. Even so, it is a formidable and long drawn out task in Guatemala as in all developing countries to bridge the chasm between extreme poverty and backwardness on the one hand and, on the other, the Western goals of a modern, prosperous, and progressive society based on free elections and full participation in the country's political and economic life. The growing, educated middle class shares these goals and would have the country pursue a path between elements of the army, radical right, and conservative economic elite on one side and the leftist forces on the other. But the burden of past events, the divisions of society, and the aura of violence continue to cloud the uncertain course of this fragile constitutional republic. The extensive list of rulers who plundered Guatemala during the 19th and early 20th centuries and the terrorism of recent years demonstrate the magnitude of the heritage the modern and moderate Guatemalans are striving to overcome.

Chronology (u/ou)

1524

Pedro de Alvarado conquers the territory of Guatemala.

1542

Audiencia of Guatemala is established and, during the colonial period, becomes a captainery general, including all of Central America.

1821

Guatemala declares independence from Spain and joins the Mexican empire.

1823

Guatemala breaks from Mexico and becomes part of the Central American Federation.

1839

Guatemala becomes an independent state, officially declaring itself a republic in 1847.

1839-1944

Guatemala is ruled by dictators, principally by Rafael Carrera (1839-65), Justo Rufino Barrios (1873-85), Manuel Estrada Cabrera (1898-1920), and Gen. Jorge Ubico (1931-44).

1944

June

Dictator Ubico is overthrown.

1945

March

Juan Jose Arevalo is inaugurated as Guatemala's first freely elected President. New constitution is promulgated.

1950

December

Col. Jacobo Arbenz Guzman is elected President.

1951

March

Col. Arbenz is inaugurated President.

October

Organization of Central American States (ODECA) is formed with Guatemalan participation.

1952

December

Communist Party of Guatemala changes name to Guatemalan Labor Party (PCT) and registers officially as a party.

1954

June

Anti-Communist group of about 200 men, led by Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, invades Guatemala and ousts Arbenz.

November

President Castillo Armas is inaugurated.

1957

July

President Castillo Armas is assassinated; Luis Arturo Gonzalez Lopez succeeds to presidency.

October

Mob action forces Gonzalez' resignation; military junta takes over; mobs force junta out; Congress names second presidential designate, Guillermo Flores Avendano, Interim President and annuls October elections.

1958

January

Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is elected President.

1959

December

Guatemala accuses Cuba before OAS of helping the Communists to prepare an invasion of Guatemala.

1960

April

Guatemala severs diplomatic relations with Cuba.

1963

March

Government declares state of seige following a wave of terrorism; return of Juan Jose Arevalo precipitates a military coup; Ydigoras is ousted; Col. Enrique Peralta heads provisional military government.

July

Peralta government breaks relations with the United Kingdom over British Honduras issue.

1964

February

Decree law provides for formation and functioning of new political parties.

March

State of siege is lifted.

May

Constituent Assembly is elected and charged with writing a new constitution and preparing complementary laws.

July

Constituent Assembly approves abrogation of the 1956 Constitution and legalizes military government.

1965

February

State of siege is reimposed following terrorist attacks.

May

Terrorists assassinate Deputy Minister of National Defense, a key Peralta aide.

June

Schedule for return to constitutional government is announced.

July

State of siege is ended.

October

PR presidential candidate, Mario Mendez Montenegro, commits suicide; brother Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro takes his place as the Revolutionary Party (PR) candidate.

1966

March

PR wins large number of congressional seats in election; no presidential candidate receives absolute majority.

May

Congress elected in March chooses Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro for President.

New constitution (promulgated in September 1965) becomes effective.

July

Mendez is inaugurated President for 4-year term.

October

Guerrilla leader Luis Turcios Lima is killed in auto accident.

1967

December

Two Maryknoll priests and one nun, all U.S. citizens, are expelled from Guatemala for aiding guerrillas.

1968

January

Two U.S. military officers are assassinated by the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) in Guatemala City.

March

Archbishop Casariego is kidnapped by rightwing terrorists; Mendez resignation is unsuccessfully demanded in return for his release. Vice President Marroquin is censured by Congress for his alleged involvement.

Mendez dismisses three top ranking military officers and sends them into diplomatic exile.

May

Congress passes law establishing civil service system.

August

U.S. Ambassador John Gordon Mien is assassinated by FAR terrorists on 28 August.

1970

March

Col. Carlos Arana Osorio is elected President by a plurality.

April

West German Ambassador von Spreiti is assassinated by FAR.

July

President Arana is inaugurated; only the second peaceful transfer of power to a duly constitutionally elected opposition in Guatemalan history.

November

Government reimposes state of siege to counter increasing terrorist activities.

1971

November

Government lifts state of siege.

1972

March

Government coalition wins landslide victory in municipal elections.

September

Top leaders of PGT reportedly seized by government.

Area Brief

LAND (U/OU)

Size: 42,040 sq. mi.
Use: 14% cultivated, 10% pasture, 57% forest, 19% other
Land boundaries: 1,010 mi.

WATER (U/OU)

Limits of territorial waters (claimed): 12 n. mi.
Coastline: 250 mi.

PEOPLE (U/OU)

Population: 5,651,000, average annual growth rate 2.8% (current)
Ethnic divisions: 41.4% Indian, 58.6% Ladino (mestizo and westernized Indian)
Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic
Language: Spanish, but one-third of the population speaks an Indian language as a primary tongue
Literacy: About 37%, age 7 and over
Labor force: 1.5 million (1969); 63.2% agriculture, 12.4% manufacturing, 11.8% services, 12.6% other, 2% unemployed; severe shortage of skilled labor; oversupply of unskilled labor; of this total an estimated 10% are unemployed at any one time
Organized labor: 5% of labor force (1970)

GOVERNMENT (U/OU)

Legal name: Republic of Guatemala
Type: Republic
Capital: Guatemala
Political subdivisions: 22 departments
Legal system: Civil law system; constitution came into effect 1966; judicial review of legislative acts; legal education at University of San Carlos of Guatemala; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
Branches: Traditionally dominant executive; elected unicameral legislature; 7-member (minimum) Supreme Court
Government leader: President Carlos Arana
Suffrage: Universal over age 18, compulsory for literates, optional for illiterates
Elections: Next elections (President and Congress) March 1974
Political parties and leaders: Democratic Institutional Party (PID), Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz; Revolutionary Party (PR), Carlos Sagastume Perez; National Liberation Movement (MLN), Mario Sandoval Alarcon; Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), Danilo Barillas Rodriguez, Rene de Leon Schlotter
Communists: Communist party outlawed; underground membership estimated at approximately 700

Other political or pressure groups: Outlawed (Communist) Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT), Bernardo Alvarado; Democratic Revolutionary Unity (URD)

Member of: CACM, IADB, IAEA, ICAO, IHB, OAS, ODECA, U.N.

ECONOMY (U/OU)

GDP: \$1.8 billion (1971, in 1958 prices), \$340 per capita; 79% private consumption, 8% government consumption, 14% domestic investment, 1% net foreign balance; real growth rate 1971, 5.1%

Agriculture: Main products—coffee, cotton, corn, beans, sugarcane, bananas, livestock

Caloric intake: 2,200 calories per day per capita (1967)

Fishing: Catch 5,000 metric tons (1970); exports \$1,700,000 (1970), imports \$500,000 (1970)

Major industries: Food processing, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, nonmetallic minerals, metals

Electric power: 178,600 kw. capacity (1971); 1,050 million kw.-hr. produced (1971), 180 kw.-hr. per capita

Exports: \$296 million (f.o.b., 1971); coffee, cotton, meat, bananas, sugar, textiles, tires

Imports: \$281 million (f.o.b., 1971); manufactured products, machinery, transportation equipment, chemicals, fuels

Major trade partners: Exports—U.S. 28%, CACM 29%, West Germany 10%, Japan 11%; imports—U.S. 41%, CACM 20%, West Germany 10%, U.K. 17% (1968)

Aid: Economic—from U.S. (FY46-71), \$182.7 million loans, \$177.5 million grants; from international organizations (FY46-71), \$127.4 million; from other western countries (1960-68), \$7.6 million; military—assistance from U.S. (FY53-71), \$24.4 million

Monetary conversion rate: 1 quetzal = US\$1 (official)

Fiscal year: Calendar year

COMMUNICATIONS (U/OU)

Railroads: 592 mi., 3'0" gage; single-tracked; 520 mi. government owned, 72 mi. privately owned

Highways: 7,600 mi., 1,300 mi. bituminous, 4,200 mi. gravel, 2,100 mi. improved or unimproved earth

Inland waterways: 164 mi. navigable year-round; additional 458 mi. navigable during high-water season

Pipelines: Crude oil, 30 mi.

Freight carried: Rail (1969)—622,600 short tons

Ports: 2 major, 3 minor

Merchant marine: 2 cargo ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,600 GRT, 5,500 DWT

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Airfields: 496 total, 329 usable; 4 with permanent-surface runways; 1 with runway 8,000-11,999 ft., 18 with runways 4,000-7,999 ft.; 1 seaplane station

Civil air: 11 major transport aircraft

Telecommunications: Modern telecom facilities limited to Guatemala City; 41,000 telephones; est. 360,000 radio and 90,000 TV receivers, 81 AM, 19 FM, and 3 TV stations; connection to international Central American microwave net

DEFENSE FORCES (C)

Military manpower: Males 15-49, 1,390,000; 700,000 fit for military service; about 63,000 reach military age (18) annually

Personnel: 12,970

Major ground units: 4 tactical brigades, 4 separate infantry battalions, 1 Parachute Infantry Battalion (known as the Rapid Reaction Force), the Presidential Guard (400 men), 1 Mobile Military Police (battalion equivalent), and 1 engineer battalion; in addition 1 Tactical Group (400 men) stationed at La Aurora Air Base for airport security

Ships: 11 craft

Aircraft: 54

Supply: Dependent primarily on U.S.; substantial quantities of army materiel obtained from Poland and Spain

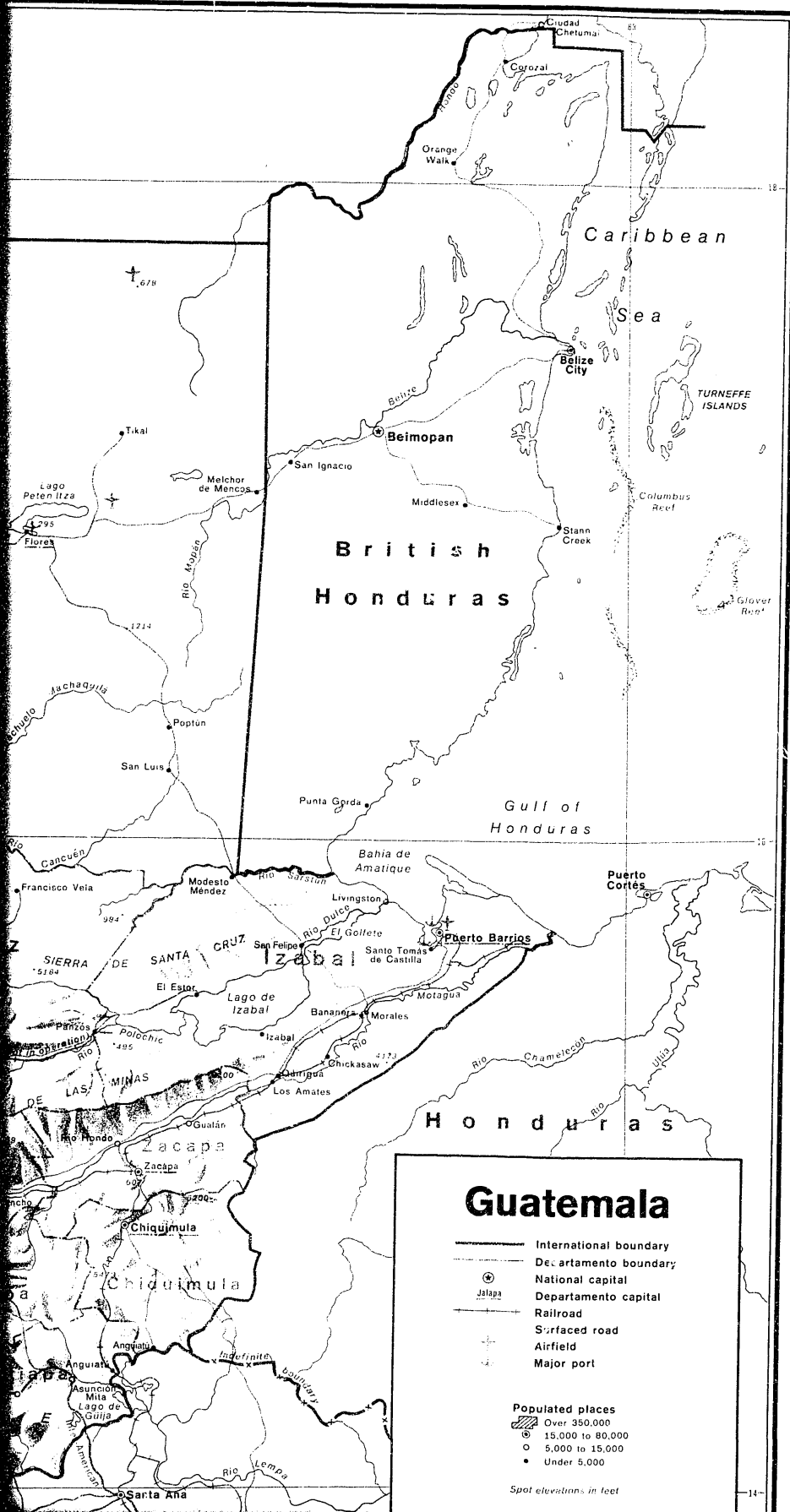
Military budget: Proposed for fiscal year ending 31 December 1972, \$18.9 million; about 7.5% of central government budget

Places and features referred to in this General Survey (U/OU)

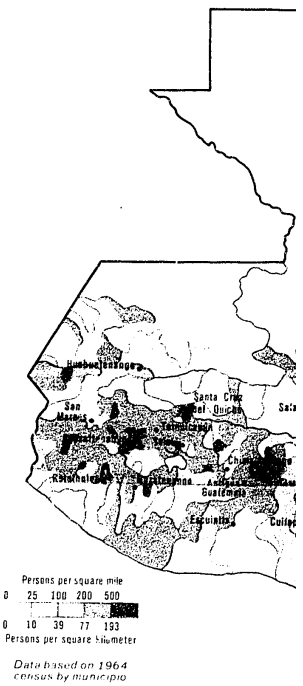
		COORDINATES			COORDINATES
		° 'N. ° 'W			° 'N. ° 'W
Anguaitú.....	14 21	89 35	Poptún.....	16 21	89 26
Antigua Guatemala.....	14 34	90 41	Puerto Barrios.....	15 43	88 36
Bahía de Amatique (<i>bay</i>).....	15 55	88 45	Quezaltenango.....	14 50	91 31
Bahía de Gálvez (<i>bay</i>).....	15 42	88 38	Quirigua.....	15 16	89 05
Bananera.....	15 28	88 50	Retalhuleu.....	14 32	91 11
Barillas.....	15 48	91 18	Río Chixoy (<i>stream</i>).....	16 04	90 21
Canal de Chiquimulilla (<i>canal</i>).....	13 55	91 07	Río de la Pasión (<i>stream</i>).....	16 28	90 33
Cantel.....	14 49	91 27	Río Dulce (<i>stream</i>).....	15 49	88 45
Champerico.....	14 18	91 55	Río Hondo.....	15 10	91 25
Chichicastenango.....	14 56	91 07	Río Motagua (<i>stream</i>).....	15 44	88 14
Chickasaw (<i>locally</i>).....	15 20	88 56	Río Polochic (<i>stream</i>).....	15 28	89 22
Chimaltenango.....	14 40	90 49	Río Salinas (<i>stream</i>).....	16 28	90 33
Chiquimula.....	14 48	89 33	Río San Pedro (<i>stream</i>).....	17 46	91 26
Ciudad Tecún Umán.....	14 40	92 09	Río Sarstún (<i>stream</i>).....	15 54	88 54
Coatepeque.....	14 42	91 52	Río Usumacinta (<i>stream</i>).....	18 24	92 38
Colán.....	15 29	90 19	San Cristóbal Verapaz.....	15 23	90 24
Cuilapa.....	14 17	90 18	San José.....	13 55	90 49
Dos Lagunas.....	17 42	89 36	San Juan Ixcay.....	15 36	91 27
El Estor.....	15 32	89 21	San Juan Sacatepéquez.....	14 43	90 39
El Progreso.....	14 51	90 04	San Marcos.....	14 58	91 18
El Rancho.....	14 55	90 00	Santa Cruz del Quiché.....	15 02	91 08
Escuintla.....	14 18	90 47	Santiago Atitlán.....	14 38	91 14
Esquipulas.....	14 34	89 21	Santo Tomás de Castilla.....	15 42	88 37
Flores.....	16 56	89 53	Sayaxché.....	16 31	90 10
Gualán.....	15 08	89 22	Sebol (archaeological site).....	15 47	89 56
Guatemala City (or Guatemala).....	14 38	90 31	Sipacate.....	13 56	91 09
Gulf of Honduras (<i>gulf</i>).....	16 10	87 50	Sololá.....	14 46	91 11
Huehuetenango.....	15 20	91 28	Tapachula, Mexico.....	14 54	92 17
Ixcán (<i>locality</i>).....	15 49	91 04	Tikal.....	17 20	89 39
Izabal.....	15 24	89 08	Tiquisate.....	14 17	91 22
Jalapa.....	14 38	89 59	Totoniacapán.....	14 55	91 22
Jutiapa.....	14 17	89 54	Uspantán.....	15 23	90 50
Lago de Atitlán (<i>lake</i>).....	14 42	91 12	Zacapa.....	14 58	89 32
Lago de Izabal (<i>lake</i>).....	15 30	89 10			
Las Casas.....	15 12	90 56			
Livingston.....	15 50	88 45	Selected airfields		
Los Cipresales.....	14 47	90 47	Dos Lagunas.....	17 41	89 32
Mazatenango.....	14 32	91 30	Flores.....	16 55	89 53
Melchor de Mencos.....	17 04	89 10	La Aurora.....	14 35	90 32
Miramundo.....	14 33	90 06	Peten Itza.....	17 02	89 39
Modesto Méndez.....	15 53	89 13	Puerto Barrios.....	15 44	88 35
Momostenango.....	15 04	91 24	Quezaltenango.....	14 52	91 30
Morales.....	15 29	88 49	Retalhuleu.....	14 31	91 42
Panzós.....	15 24	89 40	San Jose Nr 1.....	13 56	90 50
Petén.....	14 37	90 17	Zacapa.....	14 58	89 32



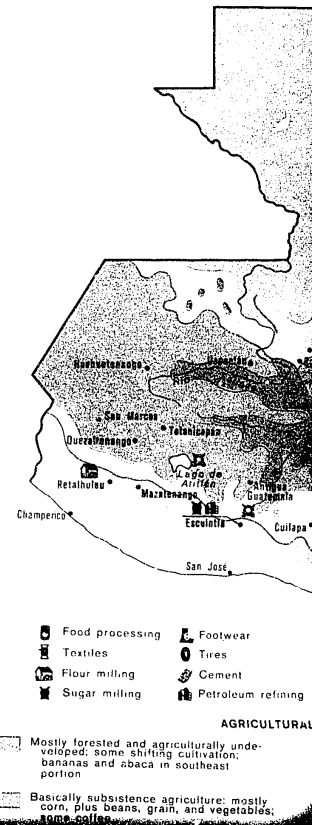
3



Population

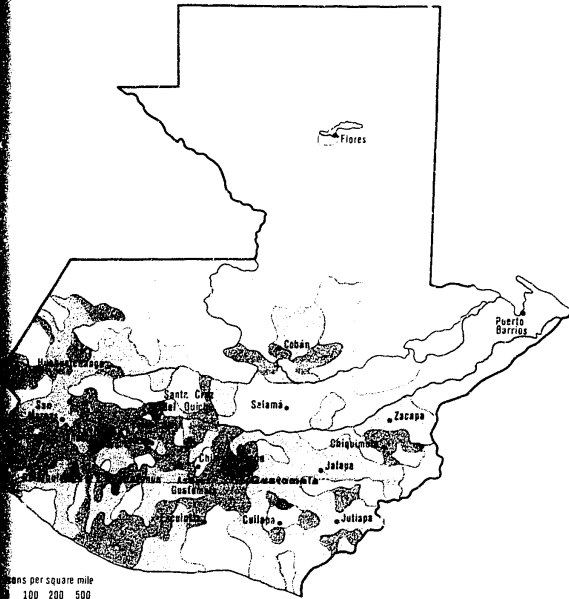


Economic Activity



(4)

Population

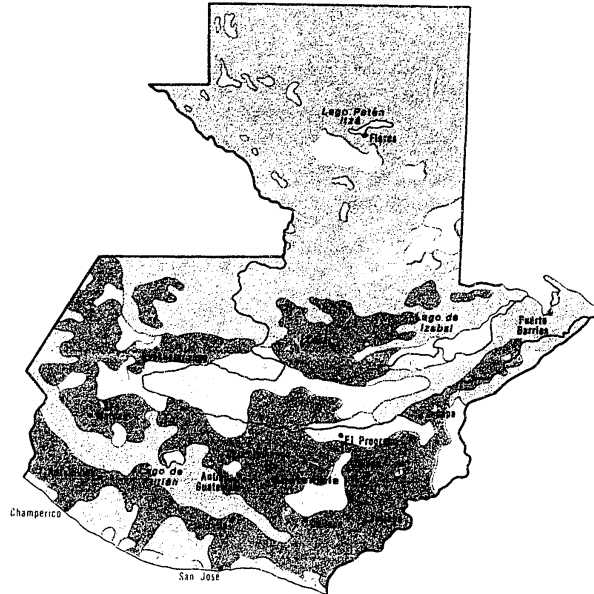


Persons per square mile
100 200 500

Persons per square kilometer
39 77 193

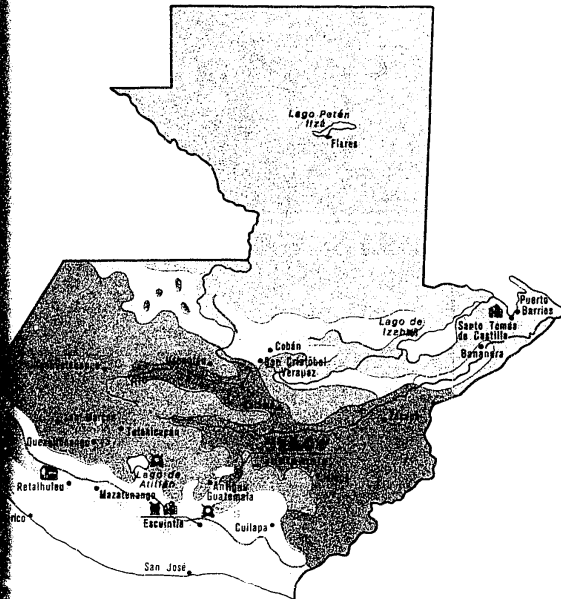
Based on 1964 census by municipio

Vegetation



- Broadleaf evergreen and deciduous forest, and scrub and grassland
- Needleleaf evergreen and broadleaf deciduous forest, and scrub
- Oak scrub, with grassland and patches of forest
- Thorn forest
- Lowland savanna and upland pasture
- Swamp or marsh
- Mangrove

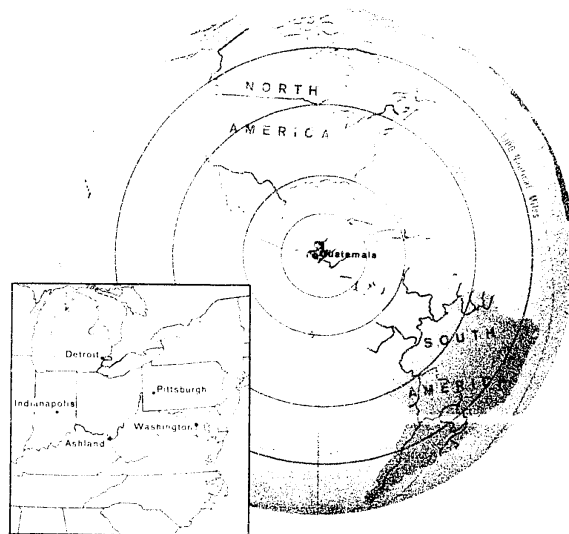
Economic Activity

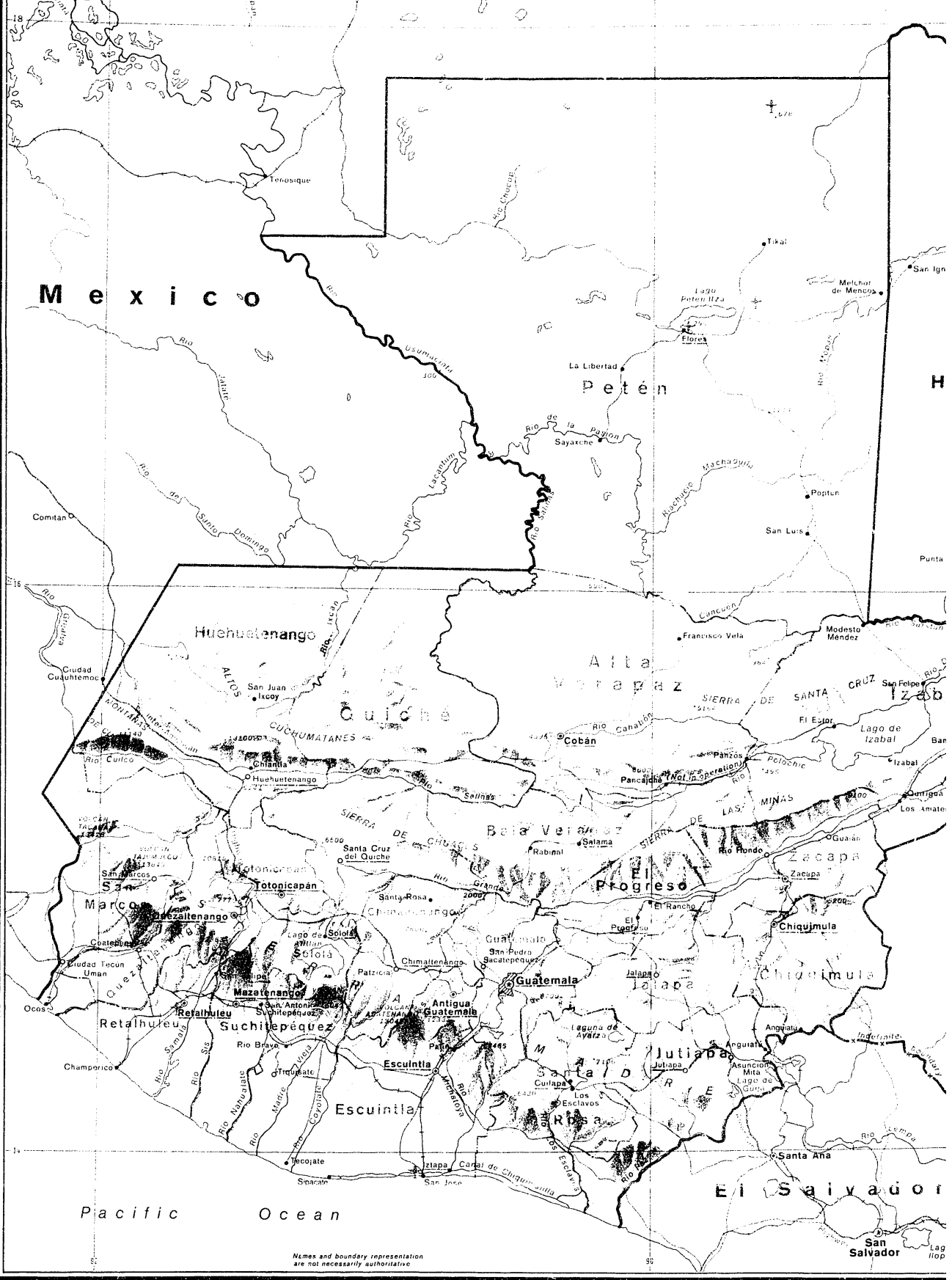


- Food processing
- Textiles
- Flour milling
- Sugar milling
- Footwear
- Tires
- Cement
- Petroleum refining
- Hydroelectric powerplant
- Nickel deposit
- Sulfur deposit

AGRICULTURAL AREAS

- Mainly forested and agriculturally undeveloped; some shifting cultivation; bananas and abacá in southeast region
- Mainly subsistence agriculture; mostly corn, beans, and vegetables
- Principal food-producing area: corn, beans, vegetables, and tropical fruits. Also cattle ranches, tobacco
- Principal coffee area





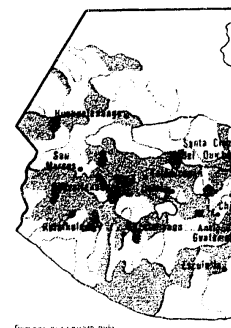
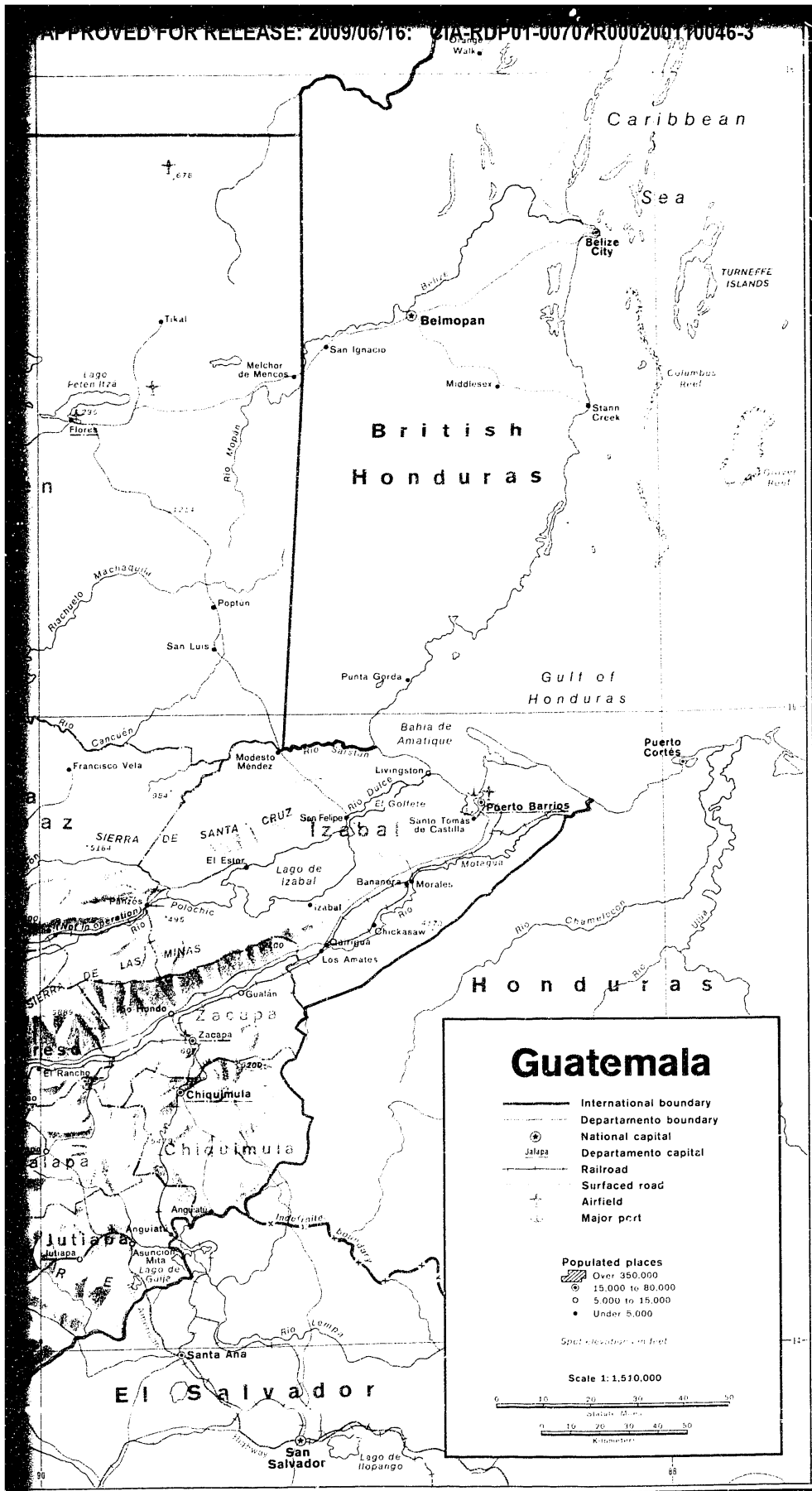
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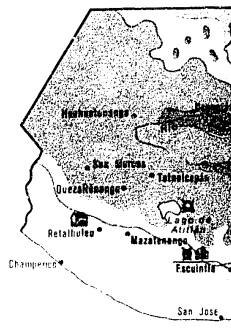
Central Intelligence Agency

For Official Use Only

5



Economic Activity



Guatemala

- International boundary
- Departamento boundary
- National capital
- Departamento capital
- Railroad
- Surfaced road
- Airfield
- Major port

Populated places

- Over 350,000
- 15,000 to 80,000
- 5,000 to 15,000
- Under 5,000

Spot elevations in feet

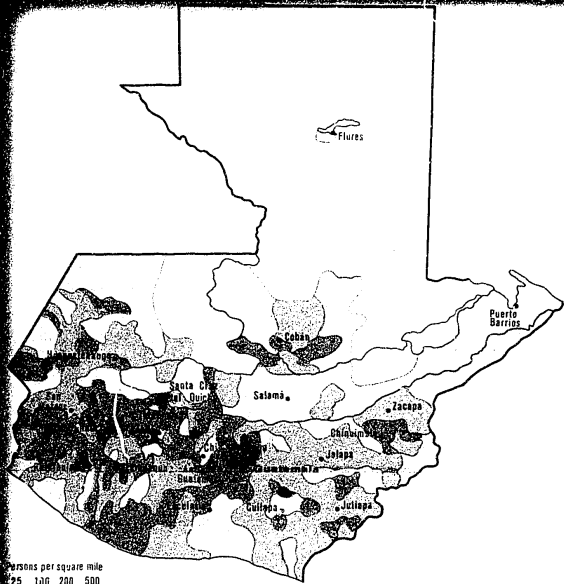
Scale 1:1,510,000

0 10 20 30 40 50

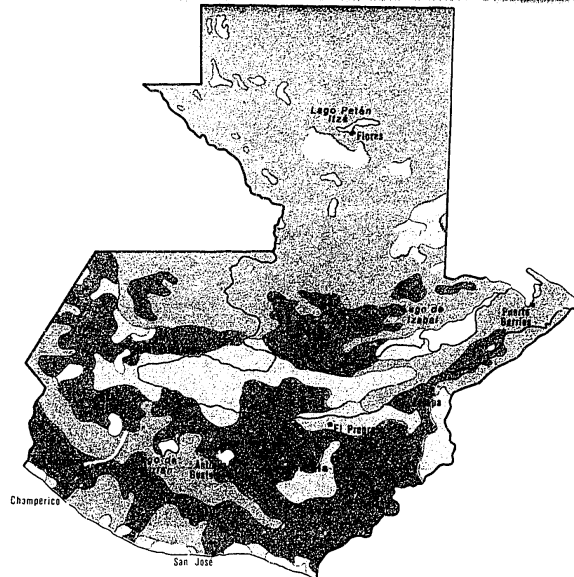
Statute Miles

0 10 20 30 40 50

Kilometers



Persons per square mile
 25 100 200 500
 10 39 77 193
 Persons per square kilometer
 Data based on 1964 census by municipio



- Broadleaf evergreen and deciduous forest, and scrub and grassland
- Thorn forest
- Nondleaved evergreen and broadleaf deciduous forest, and scrub
- Lowland savanna and upland pasture
- Oak scrub, with grassland and patches of forest
- Swamp or marsh
- Mangrove

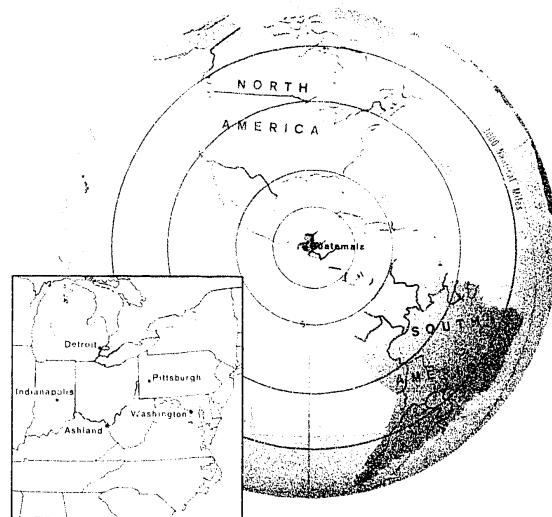
Economic Activity



- Food processing
- Footwear
- Hydroelectric powerplant
- Textiles
- Tires
- Nickel deposit
- Flour milling
- Cement
- Sulfur deposit
- Sugar milling
- Petroleum refining

AGRICULTURAL AREAS

- Mostly forested and agriculturally undeveloped; some shifting cultivation; bananas and abaca in southeast portion
- Principal food-producing area: corn, beans, vegetables, and tropical fruits. Also cattle ranches, tobacco
- Basically subsistence agriculture: mostly corn, plus beans, grain, and vegetables; some coffee
- Principal coffee area
- Basically subsistence agriculture: mostly corn, plus beans and squash; wheat, potatoes, and deciduous fruits in higher areas, plus sheep grazing
- Commercial agriculture: sugarcane, plus corn, cotton, cocoa, bananas, and coffee. Also cattle ranches
- Principal cotton area, plus sugarcane, rice, and beans. Also cattle ranches



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