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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 03997-85  
8 August 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [redacted]  
Acting National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

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SUBJECT: Leftist Revolutionary Activity in South America

1. Leftist revolutionary activity in South America has increased significantly in the past five to six years and has been focused primarily on the Andean countries. Since 1979 the number of countries with serious insurgent problems has grown from one -- Colombia -- to four: Colombia, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador. In each of these cases we believe the trend toward more leftist activity will continue.

2. Only in Chile and Colombia have government forces demonstrated some success in coping with the threat, even though they do not appear to have the capability to eliminate it. They will probably have difficulty dealing with the increase in activity we anticipate in both countries. Peru and Ecuador have had little or no success in containing their insurgents and that situation is unlikely to change appreciably under current conditions.

3. The insurgent movements involved, with one exception (the Sendero Luminoso), are supported by Cuba, Nicaragua, the USSR and Libya. Cuba, of course, is the principal source of direct external support. In general terms, Cuba selectively provides the wherewithal to turn would-be insurgents into activists. The Soviets and Nicaraguans provide complementary services or resources. Libya furnishes mostly funds and weapons; however, it does not appear to coordinate these efforts entirely with the others.

4. Unless the upward trend for insurgency in these four countries is reversed in the next few years, the USSR, Cuba and their allies will probably conclude that an intensification of their efforts would be advantageous and cost effective. Outbreaks or revivals of insurgencies in other nearby countries, such as Argentina, Uruguay, and Bolivia, would probably be encouraged and facilitated.

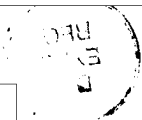
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