

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/02/28 : CIA-RDP90T00114R000600050001-7

**Page Denied**

FILE

[Redacted]

25X1

5 January 1987

TO: Ambassador L. Paul Bremer  
Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism  
Department of State

DATE 3/23/87 FILE

DOC NO GIM 87-30003

FROM: [Redacted]  
Terrorism Assessment Branch

OIR 3

25X1

P & PD 1

SUBJECT: Threat Assessment for Latin American Trip

1. Terrorist attacks and Latin America's penchant for street crime and drug-related violence make the region one of the most dangerous for foreign travelers.

- o In 1986, Latin America replaced Europe as the second most popular venue for terrorist attacks. Only in the Middle East did more terrorist attacks occur.
- o Nearly half of all international terrorist incidents involving US citizens or property occurred in Latin America. US interests were favorite targets in Colombia, Peru and Chile.
- o Over half of the incidents recorded for Latin America occurred in Colombia, Peru and Chile. [Redacted]

25X1

2. Peru. International terrorist incidents increased nearly four-fold from 1985 through 1986, to a six year high of 57 incidents. The majority of incidents were directed at US targets, especially US subsidiaries or foreign-owned businesses affiliated with US companies. Sendero Luminoso (SL), a predominantly rural, Maoist guerrilla group, and the Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru (MRTA) are responsible for most of these attacks. Recent reporting indicates that one of the groups, probably the SL, may have targeted several US Embassy employees for assassination. The MRTA, however, may pose a greater threat to US interests. Although smaller than the SL it is more prone to anti-US violence. In late December, elements of the MRTA staged nearly simultaneous, low-level attacks on approximately six US-related businesses. [Redacted]

25X1

3. Colombia. In 1986, the number of international terrorist incidents in Colombia was the highest recorded in the past six years. Colombia's principal guerrilla groups are behind most of the attacks.

- o The 19th of April Movement (M-19), long regarded as the premier urban international terrorist organization in Colombia, is engaging the Colombian military in rural areas and appears to be placing less emphasis on its traditional role as an international terrorist organization in favor of a rural insurgent strategy. [Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

- o The National Liberation Army (ELN) through the National Revolutionary Coordinator (CNG) -- a coalition of Colombian subversive organizations -- is mounting a serious challenge to the M-19's leadership of the member guerrilla groups. Lately, it has increased its attacks on the Colombian economic infrastructure, especially on petroleum-related facilities. The ELN has targeted US interests in the past and shows no signs of discontinuing its anti-US activity. [Redacted]

25X1

4. Ecuador. No international terrorist incidents were recorded in Ecuador in 1986 -- for the first time in the past six years. Since September 1985, the government's security services have killed at least four key leaders of Ecuador's only significant terrorist group, Alfaro Vive, Carajo (AVC). [Redacted] remnants of the group currently lack a unified military strategy and the press reports that some elements of the group have called upon politicians and the Catholic Church to assist them in negotiations for peace. We have no information on potential anti-US threats and believe that the increasing professionalism of the security forces will eliminate most AVC attempts to reorganize for a renewal of terrorist activities. [Redacted]

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1