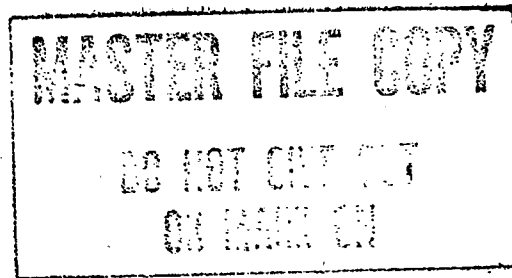




Directorate of
Intelligence

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Digest of Foreign Terrorism and Political Violence

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A Reference Aid

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~~Secret~~**Activities**

The PGT/O engages in relatively few operations. The organization's military unit consists of only 20 to 30 individuals, poorly armed with an assortment of pistols, .22-caliber rifles, and machetes. Its preferred activity is kidnaping for ransom. In 1982 the group kidnaped the publisher of *La Prensa*, the country's most prestigious paper, and extorted \$500,000. In 1983 it targeted *La Prensa* again, this time obtaining not only a substantial ransom but also the publication of a manifesto in return for the release of the kidnap victim. [redacted] (b)(3)

Sources of Support

[redacted] the PGT/O receives modest support from the Soviet Union and Cuba, the latter primarily providing paramilitary training. The organization has also sent members to El Salvador to obtain battlefield experience. [redacted] (b)(1)

[redacted] The PGT/O also has contact there with the International Relations Department of the Communist-dominated Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, as well as with representatives of numerous Latin American Communist parties, terrorist groups, and solidarity organizations. The organization also receives some arms smuggled through Mexico from sympathetic third countries. [redacted] (b)(3)

**Guatemalan National
Revolutionary Union
(URNG)
Guatemala**

(Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca.)

The URNG was established under Cuban tutelage in 1982 as the official umbrella organization for the four main Guatemalan guerrilla groups:

- Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP).
- Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA).
- Rebel Armed Forces (FAR).
- Guatemalan Labor Party/Dissident Faction (PGT/D).

Despite Cuban efforts to have the URNG coordinate political and military strategy, it remains little more than a propaganda shell, even though on occasion operations have been carried out in its name. For more information on the constituent groups, see the individual entries. [redacted] (b)(3)

**Guerrilla Army of the
Poor (EGP)
Guatemala**

(Ejercito Guerrillero de los Pobres)

Established: Early 1970s
Strength: 800 to 1,000 full-time combatants
Nature: Marxist, rural-based insurgent group
Headquartered: Guatemala
Area of operation: Northwest highlands. Departments of Huehuetenango, El Quiche, and Alta Verapaz.
Leadership: Mario de Jesus Payeras Solares,
 Ricardo Ramirez de Leon [redacted] (b)(3)

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~~Secret~~**Background**

The Guerrilla Army of the Poor, formed by dissidents from the Rebel Armed Forces (which see), is the largest Guatemalan insurgent group; traditionally, it has been one of the most effective and violent. Unlike other Guatemalan terrorist groups, the EGP advocates a broad-based rural structure and has recruited heavily among the highland Maya Indians. As a result of the relatively enlightened "beans and bullets" program instituted in 1982 by the Rios Montt government, the EGP suffered severe military reverses, lost considerable support in villages and towns that formerly composed its traditional sources of strength, and subsequently split over doctrinal issues. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Activities

Terrorists belonging to antecedent groups have targeted foreign personalities and facilities in Guatemala. Before 1980 they were responsible for the murders of US Ambassador John Gordon Mein, two US military attaches, and West German Ambassador Count Karl von Spreti. Since then, acts of international terrorism attributable to the EGP include a rocket attack on the American Embassy; the murders of the American manager of the Guatemalan subsidiary of the Goodyear Tire Company and the American head of the Seventh-Day Adventist School; and bombings of the Guatemala City offices of the US Chamber of Commerce office, Pan American Airways, the Salvadoran and Honduran national airlines, and the Guatemala City Chevron Oil depot. In addition, members of an EGP front group seized the Salvadoran and Spanish Embassies—the latter operation resulting in the deaths of 39 individuals. [redacted]

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The EGP has also captured and held remote towns for short periods of time. Its members have murdered military officers and enlisted men; police and civil officials; union, business, and media figures; as well as peasants who have been suspected of cooperating with the government or resisting EGP control. [redacted]

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Sources of Support

Since its founding, Cuba has provided the EGP extensive guidance, funding, and logistic support. As of March 1983, an estimated 250 EGP members are believed to have received training in Cuba. EGP operations have been financed by kidnappings of wealthy landowners, government officials, and industrialists; these operations have yielded ransoms as high as US \$4 million. Cuba, Libya, and sympathetic socialist states also provide some financial assistance. The EGP obtains its weapons through raids on police stations and army patrols, clandestine purchases in Mexico and the United States, as well as from Cuba, other socialist countries, and probably Nicaragua. [redacted]

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GUNT

See Transitional Government of National Unity. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Hector Riobe Brigade
Haiti

Small insurgent organization established 1982 ... composed of 25 to 35 Haitian exiles ... based in Miami with supporters in Haiti ... named for Hector Riobe, who committed suicide in 1960 after unsuccessfully attempting to topple regime of Francois Duvalier ... group appears motivated more by hatred of current dictator

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