

[REDACTED]

(M)



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

5 October 1981

SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Summary

We have no [REDACTED] that radical groups are specifically targetting the National Bipartisan Committee for violent actions during its visit to Central America. Nevertheless, because of the relatively poor quality of the security services and the endemic violence in the region, an isolated terrorist act is always possible. This is particularly true in El Salvador [REDACTED] where insurgent groups are capable of carrying out sophisticated operations. [REDACTED]

A recent assessment [REDACTED] indicates that a potential threat to the Committee could come from either the far left or far right elements in El Salvador. [REDACTED], the FMLN plans to sharply increase its military activities between now and mid-October. This could include attacks against the Salvadoran air base at Ilopango and the adjacent civilian airport, the likely point of entry for the Committee. [REDACTED] however, that the FMLN leadership now appears to favor dialogue

This memorandum was requested by Ambassador Shlaudeman for the Bipartisan Committee. It was prepared by [REDACTED], AIA.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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with the government. Consequently, [REDACTED] does not believe that the FMLN would attempt to create an incident aimed at disrupting the Committee's visit. [REDACTED] does not rule out the possibility of isolated incidents carried out by renegade members of one or more guerrilla factions, however. [REDACTED]

Regarding the right, [REDACTED] Roberto D'Aubuisson, head of the ultra-rightist ARENA party and President of the Constituent Assembly, is upset by the efforts of US representatives to establish a dialogue between the insurgents and the government. [REDACTED] D'Aubuisson mistrusts US motives and reportedly has vowed that he and his party will do everything possible to ensure that a dialogue does not take place. Consequently, [REDACTED] believes that the likelihood of a problem from the far right is greater than from the far left. [REDACTED]