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Weekly Situation Report

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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16 September 1981

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

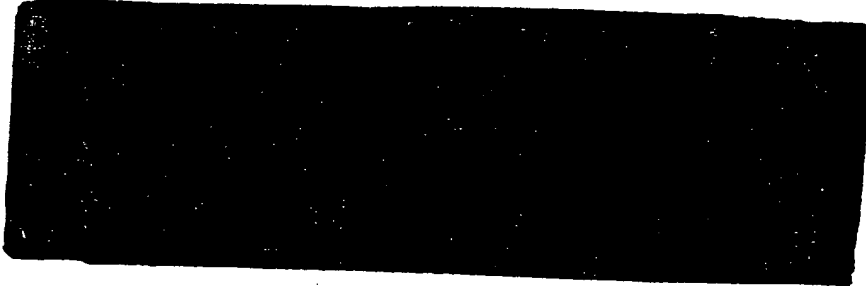
16 September 1981

Articles:

Page



American Missionary Murdered in Guatemala 7



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

16 September 1981

American Missionary Murdered in Guatemala

John Troyer, pastor of the Conservative Mennonite Fellowship Mission in Aldea Palama, located 35 miles northwest of Chimaltenango, was murdered by a group of approximately 10 armed men about 0100 on 14 September. Gary Miller, another American affiliated with the mission, was shot in the chest and is recuperating in Guatemala City.

Prior to the shooting, the armed men spent an hour ransacking the Troyer residence and accusing them of being spies for the U.S. Government, impeding the progress of their "movement" among the peasants, and expressing resentment of the U.S. lifestyle. Troyer's wife, five children, and their Guatemalan maid witnessed the shooting but were not harmed. No group has claimed responsibility for the murder.

In spite of the increasing violence in Guatemala, Father Ferdinand Gosselin and Father Breen, Maryknoll priests, have expressed a desire to return to the Peten area. The source who warned the priests of death threats left Guatemala in a state of nervous collapse, and, while Maryknoll superiors believe there was some truth in her information, they are satisfied that the problem has decreased. (See the issues of 12 and 19 August.) Father Ted Custer, also a Maryknoll priest working in Guatemala City, received two death threats and left Guatemala in late August. Father Bruce (no last name available), who had been working in Huehuetenango, asked to be sent home because the killing and violence in the Indian highlands was becoming overwhelming. Even though the Government of Guatemala ordered a full investigation into the death of Father Stanley Rother (see the issue of 5 August), the Government has not responded to requests by the U.S. Government for an investigation.

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