



Directorate of
Intelligence

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Insurgency: 1985 in Review

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An Intelligence Assessment

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Briefs

The following briefs summarize the status of 13 additional insurgencies. The judgments are based on our review of extensive evidence [redacted] over the past year. [redacted]

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Colombia

A marked upsurge in terrorist actions over the last several months probably foreshadows an eventual collapse of the country's current pseudopeace with the insurgents, perhaps when President Belisario Betancur's term expires in August 1986. Moreover, we believe a renewed outbreak of insurgency would quickly reach levels comparable to those that existed before Betancur took office in 1982. Although in 1984 Betancur obtained cease-fire agreements with FARC, M-19, and EPL insurgents—ELN guerrillas refused to participate—only the truce with the FARC still remains in effect. Furthermore, largely because his policies have not significantly reduced levels of domestic violence, popular support for Betancur's approach has steadily eroded. [redacted]

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Guatemala

The fortunes of Guatemala's four leftist insurgent groups—the EGP, FAR, ORPA, and PGT/O—are in decline. Available evidence indicates that ideological and personal differences among guerrilla leaders and a successful counterinsurgency campaign are limiting the insurgency's effectiveness and frustrating Havana's and Managua's efforts to unite Guatemala's rebel groups. In addition, although the insurgents maintain their ability to conduct low-risk, high-profile acts of urban terrorism, government-sponsored civilian defense programs and various civic action initiatives have helped to reduce insurgent ranks to no more than 1,500 full-time combatants. We do not expect the insurgency's negative trend to change during the next 12 months. [redacted]

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Ecuador

Ecuador, long one of the few Andean nations not affected by terrorist violence, now faces a growing insurgent challenge. The most prominent radical group—Alfaro Vive, Carajo! (AVC)—first appeared in 1983 and now numbers some several hundred armed members and sympathizers. There are also indications that this "anti-imperialist" and anti-US group is the beneficiary of increasing amounts of arms, money, and training from foreign governments and insurgent organizations. Although the AVC does not currently possess the numbers or resources to threaten the government, we believe its terrorist capability makes it a serious concern. In addition, the combative political style of Ecuador's fiscally conservative, pro-US President—Leon Febres-Cordero—has alienated many Ecuadoreans and is giving the radicals new opportunities to attract support. [redacted]

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