

First, the URNG has used a nominal cease-fire period to, again, begin putting active forces into place in the urban centers, particularly in the capital city. Had a hard core of urban narco-terrorists been in place during the Guatemala City riots and protests accompanying the September 1985 student, municipal, and oil-workers strike, the country could have been hit with the kind of low-intensity war that characterizes the present Soviet-backed "Shining Path" insurgency against the García government in Peru today.

The urban-based side of the insurgency buildup has been facilitated by the non-stop anti-Cerezo agitation of the GAM, the so-called Mutual Support Group, which is the principal Guatemalan front of the international human rights mafia. Using doctored studies prepared by Amnesty International and Oxfam, GAM is claiming 40,000 "disappeared" persons were killed by the Guatemalan Armed Forces and associated "death squads" over the past decade. GAM demands that Cerezo dismantle the armed forces and institute the kind of show-trials of the generals that President Alfonsín has carried out under IMF orders in Argentina.

Both Guatemalan and U.S. sources report that GAM is the umbrella under which the urban terrorist front of the URNG is being rapidly rebuilt.

Second, the three major insurgency forces operating in the countryside have each taken to reorganizing and re-arming in preparation for imminent larger-scale military engagements. The FAR, EGP, and ORPA have been heavily re-armed with predominantly U.S. Vietnam War-vintage equipment seized by the North Vietnamese, including M-16 rifles, rocket launchers, mines, etc. Some of the new equipment, according to Guatemalan sources, is the most advanced matériel ever found in the possession of the guerrillas. Cuba has been identified as the primary source of the arms.

Armed with this new equipment, the three main guerrilla forces have been restructured. Rather than operating in small, at most company-sized elements, the narco-guerrillas have recently, according to Guatemalan Armed Forces accounts, grouped into battalion (400 to 600-man) size elements. This is in preparation for assaults against targeted military installations and units, the first such large-scale action since the insurgency peak of 1980-82.

The efforts of the EGP and ORPA in the Chimaltenango area are a significant indicator of the URNG-led strategy. The city of Chimaltenango, located due west of Guatemala City, has been designated as the communications center for the EGP, whose main forces are based in the Chixoy and Huehuetenango zones, due north of Chimaltenango. An Indian population in Chimaltenango is targeted as a fertile recruiting ground. Given the close proximity to the capital, the majority of Indians there have traveled to and worked in Guatemala City, thus representing a bridge between the rural and urban components of the narco-insurgency force.

The historical military objective of the URNG has been to cut off the western highlands region of the country from central government control, to accomplish the same goal in

the sparsely populated, but strategically located, El Petén, and simultaneously to commence low-intensity warfare inside the capital, thus paralyzing government functions.

Both Guatemala and U.S. military experts interviewed in preparation for this report, have characterized the current Soviet-backed guerrilla activation as a Phase III insurgency. By these standard measures, Phase I is the early recruiting and propaganda phase; Phase II is the period of armed propaganda in which limited terrorist actions, carried out at no more than a company-level of deployment, augment recruitment and logistical buildup. Phase III is the transition into larger-scale military engagements beyond simple skirmishes that signifies a commitment to a qualitative escalation, beyond mere low-intensity unconventional warfare on a theater-level.

The Guatemalan Armed Forces moved in early spring to choke off this guerrilla regroupment before its consolidation, by sending concentrations of troops into the western highlands area around the state of San Marcos and near the western side of Lake Atitlán, to hit the ORPA forces as they were deploying to consolidate their company-level forces at battalion strength. As of this writing, that Guatemalan Armed Forces campaign was to be re-targeted against EGP strongholds (see map).

## Steinberg jailed by money launderers: Guatemala

The leading daily of Guatemala, *El Gráfico*, published a two-page spread on Oct. 12 entitled, "Drug Money Laundering Mafia Orders Arrest of Jeffrey Steinberg, the Anti-Drug Expert and Adviser to Democratic Presidential Candidate Lyndon LaRouche."

The text indicts William Weld, Donald Regan, and George Shultz for having fulfilled the wishes of Gorbachov, in imprisoning Steinberg and his wife Michele for alleged "obstruction of justice" on Oct. 6 (cf. *EIR*, Oct. 17, 1986). It notes: "Jeffrey Steinberg, famous in Guatemala for his contributions to the anti-drug fight, coordinated an *EIR* team which wrote a special report titled, *Soviet Unconventional Warfare in Ibero-America: The Case of Guatemala*, and a film documentary with the same name in August 1985. The report shows the links between the Carter administration and the Soviets' war against Guatemala."

The newspaper observes how "those democrats who have made so many campaigns about supposed violations of 'human rights' in other countries, had no qualms about violating the human rights of the Steinberg couple."