Guatemalan Rebels On May 9 Attempted Coup

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In a communique released June 8, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) called on all sectors of Guatemalan society to mobilize themselves to advance the search for a political solution to the domestic conflict, and toward the establishment of a genuine democracy. The rebels exhorted "social, political and productive organizations" to "demand measures to obtain their immediate needs" and long-term rights as citizens. Regarding the May 9 coup attempt, the URNG said that it demonstrated the deterioration of the regime, intensification of major contradictions, deep schisms within the Army, and the decisive intervention of the US Embassy. According to the URNG, "the US government, via its Embassy, played the role of mediator and arbitrator" in the coup attempt. According to the rebels, although the Christian Democrat government of President Vinicio Cerezo and the plans executed by Defense Minister Gen. Hector Gramajo are "incapable of resolving the country's crisis, they constitute a lesser evil than the option of an open military dictatorship." The rebel communique said the instigators of the coup attempt obtained several concessions, including measures aimed at "boycotting the national dialogue" sponsored by the National Reconciliation Commission created in fulfillment of a provision contained in the Esquipulas II peace accords. Their purpose, said the URNG, was to "interrupt and limit the dialogue to avoid seeing it converted into a tribunal where popular demands are expressed." (Basic data from Notimex, 06/08/89)

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