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Honduras: Note On Leftist Insurgent Groups

by Deborah Tyroler

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In recent interviews with Wilson Ring of the Washington Post, two leaders of Honduran revolutionary groups said that attacks against US troops would continue as part of a program to rid the country of the US military presence, and install a "popular revolutionary government." The two rebels and a third guerrilla leader made it clear that while they plan to continue promoting actions to achieve their objectives, they were incapable of carrying out a sustained military operation. Marco Virgilio Carias, a theorist for the Honduran section of the Central American Revolutionary Workers Party (PRTC), said, "The revolutionary movement in Honduras is not dead. Conditions demand the armed struggle. The American troops will not leave for political reasons." Carias and a top member of the Honduran Communist Party, who uses the code name Marta, were interviewed recently in Managua, Nicaragua, where they reportedly live in exile. A member of the best-known guerrilla group in Honduras, the Popular Liberation Movement, known as the Cinchoneros, spoke with the Post on the condition that his name and the location of the interview not be revealed. In the past two years, 28 US servicemen have been wounded in attacks in Honduras, according to US officials. In the most recent incident on July 13 near a discotheque in La Ceiba, seven were wounded, four seriously. The next day, the Morazanista Patriotic Front issued a communique claiming responsibility for the attack. The communique said, "Yankee soldiers are only safe in their own land because here they are the target of our bullets and explosives." It was fourth attack on US troops in Honduras this year. The three previous incidents were claimed by different guerrilla organizations that had been considered inactive. The Honduran revolutionaries would not specify sources of funding. Marta acknowledged that the Communist Party received some assistance from international organizations, but that the group was largely self-sufficient. (Basic data from Washington Post, 08/06/89)

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