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Guatemalan Army Launches Offensive Against Rebels

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Nov. 22, the Guatemalan army launched an offensive against guerrilla positions in Chimaltenango department, 60 km. west of Guatemala City. Paratroopers and three army battalions were involved in the operation against the Armed Popular Organization (ORPA). According to Col. Jose Luis Quilo Ayuso, commander of the military zone based in Chimaltenango, said an ORPA column of 140 fighters armed with rifles and missiles was "propagandizing" in the area. Civilians, he said, were supporting the guerrillas. (Basic data from Xinhua, 11/23/89)

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