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## Guatemala: Socio-economic Notes

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## **Guatemala: Socio-economic Notes**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Oct. 27, at a rally following a peace march organized by the Catholic Church in Guatemala City, Bishop Prospero Penado called on the government and the rebels to seek a political solution to armed conflict. Participants in the march included 15,000 children. Penados said 100,000 Guatemalan children have lost one or both parents. He mentioned that during a recent visit in San Francisco, Calif., he learned that 8,000 Guatemalans are now residing in that city after having fled violence in their country. According to the Secretary General of Planning (SEGEPLAN), 815,536 Guatemalans are homeless, and an average 40,000 homeless families are registered every year. SEGEPLAN figures for 1989 show that 1,187,213 Guatemalans are unemployed. The underemployment rate is 42%. [Basic data from 11/03/89 report by the Comision de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (Mexico), based on Guatemalan daily newspapers El Grafico and Prensa Libre, and Mexico-based Enfoprensa, Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias]

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