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Guatemala: Notes On Rebel Activities

by Deborah Tyroler

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Sept. 12-15: Armed with placards and weapons, Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) rebels occupied a stretch of highway in El Quiche department. According to URNG reports, government troops sustained four casualties in subsequent fighting. Sept. 16-18: Rebels occupied five estates in Suchitepequez and Chimaltenango departments where they held meetings with hundreds of workers. Sept. 17: Guerrillas attacked two military convoys in transit on the North Transversal Highway in El Quiche department. The URNG said the army suffered 10 casualties. Rebels caused one government troop casualty in an attack on the outskirts of the Union Cuarto Pueblo barracks. Sept. 22: The URNG reported downing an army helicopter in El Quiche department with the use of missile launchers, machine guns and rifles. According to rebels, government troops suffered 10 casualties. Sept. 24: The Agence France Presse reported that rebel sabotage and military offensives over the weekend were intensified. Guerrillas set fire to a warehouse owned by the state-run telecommunications company (GUATEL), located 20 km. south of Guatemala City, and launched attacks in several departments. In the previous few days, 13 electricity towers and several transmission lines were destroyed. Most rebel actions were concentrated in El Quiche department. As of Sept. 24, power had not yet been restored to several villages in El Quiche. Military sources reported that during an attack on a navy vessel, five soldiers were wounded. According to AFP, the level of guerrilla activity in the past two months is unprecedented since President Vinicio Cerezo took power in January 1986. Recent rebel actions have been concentrated in El Peten and El Quiche departments. (Basic data from AFP, 09/23/90, 09/24/90)

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