

Intelligence Information Report



WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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Impossible to determine date of automatic declassification.

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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DATE DISTR. 1 August 1975

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COUNTRY Guatemala/El Salvador

DOI

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SUBJECT Formation of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP)

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1. [redacted] a Guatemalan guerrilla leader who uses the name Fernando Campos said that during mid-1973 he and a small group of supporters formed the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP). Comment: Campos is a well-known Guatemalan revolutionary whose true identity has never been determined. His association with revolutionary organizations dates back to 1962 when he was no more than 23 years of age. Little is known of his activities until the early 1970's when his name became linked with the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR). It is believed that prior to joining the FAR, Campos underwent guerrilla training in Cuba.

ORIGINAL FILE 64-200-213-112

[redacted] one Fernando Campos led a 20-man FAR group operating on both sides of the Guatemala-El Salvador border.

Campos was probably working under the command of Pablo Monsanto, alias "Manzana," at that time. "Manzana's" true name is Jorge Ismael Soto Garcia.

Campos, using the alias "Leu," was working with the FAR faction under the command of Rodrigo Asturias Amado, alias "Gaspar." Other aliases which Campos has used are "Demetrio" and "Hector."

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reported "Leu's" return from Cuba to lead a new revolutionary movement.)

2. Campos said that his second-in-command at the time of the formation of the ERP was Barahona (fnu), alias "el Negro," who attended the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City. [Redacted] Comment: Barahona may be identical with Cristobal de Jesus Barahona Zanabria, a citizen of El Salvador.) According to Campos, he and Barahona formed a sister ERP in El Salvador which "el Negro" Barahona now heads. Two others who assisted Campos in organizing the ERP, but who are no longer associated with the organization, are "Dientes," a former FAR member, and Garcilaso de la Vega Velasquez Arriola. [Redacted] Comment: "Dientes" is an alias which Julio Ruben Landa Castaneda used when active in the FAR. Landa is currently believed to be outside of Guatemala. Velasquez is believed to have retired from the leftist scene.) Campos said that ERP collaborators include Fernando Noriega, a journalist, and Luis Vallejio, Secretary General of the University Student Association (AEU).

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3. (Headquarters Comment: The initials ERP first appeared in El Salvador in March 1972. [Redacted])

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[Redacted] ERP is probably one of several names for a small extreme leftist organization which Salvador Cayetano Carpio leads. Carpio is a former secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES) who left the Party in 1970 in a dispute over ideology. He espoused a more violent line than the pro-Soviet PCES. His organization has also used the names Los Nonualcos, Salvador Revolutionary Action (ARS), the Popular Front for Liberation (FPL) and Farabundo Marti. Although the ERP and FPL have taken credit for various acts of terrorism such as bomb explosions in February 1974 and the take over of two San Salvador radio stations in March 1974, there is some evidence to suggest that officials of the Ministry of Defense were in fact responsible for the 1974 incidents. [Redacted]

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4. The ERP, said Campos, was founded to take control of Guatemala and to institute a socialist regime. The ERP rejects the guerrilla concept of focusing the struggle in one area; rather, it believes the guerrilla effort should be closely linked to the needs of the people and that the conflict should be conducted on several fronts. Campos said that a national directorate governs the ERP and the tactical combat units made up of three to five men fall under its command. Such units existed, according to Campos, in Guatemala City, Huehuetenango (western Guatemala), Jalapa and Jutiapa (southeastern Guatemala). There are no units in either the north or south of the country. Campos remarked that the ERP was experiencing a crisis in its national directorate because some of the leaders had left the organization. He said that the ERP does have an intelligence apparatus, made up of former FAR members, but that it has no propaganda arm. The ERP has some small arms but lacks 9 mm. ammunition. Campos said that the ERP had some knowledge of explosives and that the group was responsible for the unsuccessful bombing of the Nicaraguan Consulate in Guatemala, and the bombing of the office of the Organized Aranzista Central (CAO), a political group affiliated with the present government and

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the office of the Inspector General of Labor (IGL). [redacted]
Comment: [redacted]

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[redacted] there was no record of a recent bombing attempt against the Nicaraguan Consulate. A bomb did explode at the CAO's office on 9 April 1974 and the IGL was bombed on 1 May 1975. Neither explosion caused extensive damage or injuries.) Campos said that the ERP was currently in the process of constructing a training camp for ERP recruits near Nenton, Huehuetenango.

5. Campos said that the ERP in El Salvador was responsible for the assassination of Roque Dalton Garcia in late May 1975. [redacted] Comment: Stories of Dalton's death surfaced in the San Salvador Press when the ERP distributed a flyer claiming credit for the killing because Dalton was an agent of the police.) Campos said that the ERP in Guatemala had not been active to date but was considering the possibility of carrying out a joint operation with a FAR group under the command of "Javier." [redacted] Comment: "Javier" is Roberto Francisco Garcia Benavente, who [redacted]

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[redacted] died recently as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident in Mexico. Garcia was chief of urban operations for Asturias FAR group.)

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6. Other individuals and groups with whom the ERP maintained contact in Guatemala, according to Campos, were Julio Cesar Macias Mayora, alias "Cesar Montes," Antonio Fernandez Izaguirre, alias "Lisandro," and Ricardo Ramirez de Leon, alias "Dicky," all of the FAR; Rolando Andrade and Julio Segura Trujillo, officials of the Guatemalan Communist Party (PGT); and, Violeta de Carpio Nicolle. Campos remarked highly of Fernandez but classified Ramirez as a "gangster" and Macias as a good fighter but unqualified leader. Campos said that the ERP was out to get Segura. [redacted] Comment: Campos did not elaborate but strongly implied that he would like to see Segura dead.) [redacted] Comment:

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[redacted] Campos said that for a short time during 1973, he, his wife and first child, lived at the home of Violeta de Carpio. [redacted] Comment: As of early July 1975, Campos, his wife and three daughters were residing somewhere in Guatemala City.)

7. [redacted] Dissem: Embassy, Defense Attache at Guatemala City: Sent to [redacted] CINCSO (J-2 only).

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