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DCI WATCH COMMITTEE REPORT

5 February 1982

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5. Guatemala: The Guatemalan military's plans to begin sweeps through the Ixil Triangle area, which has the largest concentration of guerrillas and sympathizers in the country, could lead not only to major clashes, but to serious abuses by the armed forces. Chief of Staff Lucas has cautioned his men not to harm innocent peasants, but he acknowledged that because most Indians in the area support the guerrillas it probably will be necessary to destroy a number of villages. This sort of activity almost certainly would receive prominent coverage in foreign newspapers.

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