

APPENDIX G

INSURGENT ACTIVITY INDICATORS

GENERAL

Anything that insurgents can do to influence and direct a society toward overthrowing its government will be reflected by some action or indication, no matter how subtle. These occurrences are referred to as insurgent activity indicators. By recognizing these indicators it is possible to obtain the first clues to insurgent existence and then evidence of the growth of the insurgent movement. Because there is a great deal of legitimate activity, there is a requirement to determine which of the various sociological, economic, political, and other activities represent insurgent activity.

It is not possible to provide an all-inclusive listing of insurgency indicators because there are too many possibilities existing in the many nations of the world. The indicators in this appendix, however, do provide a beginning framework for a detailed analysis of any particular country. The greater the perception of an insurgency situation within a particular country and the greater the knowledge of the insurgent involved, the easier it will be to identify the insurgent activity indicators.

This appendix will serve as a guide for the intelligence officer in developing appropriate clues to insurgent activity in a particular area. Isolated actions of seemingly little significance in one area may show a pattern of an emerging insurgency when coordinated with reports of indicators from other areas. In developing indicators, or using these suggested ones, it is important to remember that insurgent strategy can suddenly change. The insurgent threat can unfold along altogether different lines simultaneously or can suddenly switch from use of military force, for example, to a political offensive. Such a development can be dangerous if it makes the general situation appear to be much less critical than it really is.

The development of appropriate indicators, together with the collection effort, can not only indicate an insurgency or potential insurgent situation exists, but can also identify any problems and dissatisfaction of the people. The elimination or effective control of insurgency is based on coordinated IDAD programs which address identified problems or potential problems. Before these programs can be developed, the threat must be defined. The first step in defining the threat is to establish insurgent activity indicators.

RURAL INSURGENT ACTIVITY

A rural area, for purposes of this appendix, includes all farming areas, any town or village up to 5,000 people, and any town or village up to 20,000 people with a farm-based economy where the townspeople, if not engaged in farming, earn their livelihood in agricultural service industries. In such areas, where the interests are so interdependent, insurgency indicators would be similar in both the town and countryside. This is not to say that rural insurgency may not be directed by urban insurgents and coordinated with urban insurgency; however, some theoreticians emphasize that the key to success is the countryside and the rural population. In such