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**18/SMS09/032 – I.R.D**

**I.R.D 214 - ASSIGNMENT**

HP

**STAGES OF AN INSURGENCY**

Once an insurgent organization is established and starts its activities, it progresses through phases in its effort to overthrow the government. The "mass-oriented" or Maoist organizational and operational pattern consists of three phases. A distinguishing characteristic of other patterns is that they forego one or more of these phases. The defending government cannot easily determine when the insurgency will move from one phase to another. The activities performed in the earlier phases continue through the later phases. These phases range from the weak insurgent movement to when the insurgent can directly confront government forces. Also, depending on the lack of success of the movement, a reversion may occur from Phase III to Phase II or even back to Phase I.

**PHASE I: Organization, Consolidation and Preservation of Base Areas.** This essentially means establishing a core cadre as part of the movement. Insurgents generally arrive in remotely located areas, and live with the locals. These are places towards which government has little or no attention. They propagate their ideas and recruit followers. This is the conceptual stage for the rebels, since the numbers in these areas are small, it is easy for the insurgents keeping tabs on the populationActivity in this phase ranges from subversive activity, which is only a potential threat, to situations where frequent subversive incidents and activities occur in a pattern. It involves no major outbreak of violence or uncontrolled insurgent activity. The insurgent force does not conduct continuous operations but rather selected acts of terrorism. An insurgency could achieve victory during this phase.

**PHASE II: Guerrilla Warfare.** This phase is reached when the insurgent movement, having gained enough local external support, initiates organized continuous guerrilla warfare or related forms of violence against the government. This is an attempt to force government forces into a defensive role. As the insurgent becomes stronger, he begins to conduct larger operations. The next phase involves the use of military means to heightened political effect, isolated attacks are planned- which are meant to serve a political purpose and to forward their propaganda. The aim is to put a fear of safety in the otherwise comfortable officials as well as gather attention.

**PHASE III: War of Movement/ Decision:.** When the insurgent attains the force structure and ability to directly engage government forces in decisive combat, he begins to use more conventional tactics. He may also obtain combat forces from an external source. Also, the insurgent can begin conducting more extensive defensive operations to protect the areas he controls. The host nation's military plan and the US military support plan must be combined to govern US tactical operations. When the US employs combat forces, they are normally assigned missions that support the security component of the IDAD strategy. This allows the host nation to establish a secure base for mobilization and balanced development programs, and to form and train effective security forces. US forces may conduct offensive operations to disrupt and destroy the insurgents' combat formations or to interdict their external support. They can also disrupt the insurgents' efforts to consolidate and expand areas already under their control. This involves an all out war against the government, it may begin with the militia taking up arms against a small government structure to gather resources, killing informants, looting weapons cache etc. This would result in the emergence of military objectives as well as encourage more people to take up arms. This would result in the build up of a massive military force eventually taking over the country.