

Excerpt: Possible Weaknesses of the MRTA Threat

Funding: MRTA supports its activities largely through bank robberies, kidnappings, and extortion. . . . The MRTA has well-established support groups in both Sweden and France. These groups provide money, medicine, clothing, and political support. . . . MRTA was suffering severe economic problems at the time of its 27 August 1990 Congress. . . . The organization was "no longer" receiving firm support from the Soviet Union, Cuba, or Nicaragua; had not received enough "taxes" from the narcotics traffickers to cover MRTA's expenses; and had experienced further hardship from [the government's] economic shock program . . . [but an] improvement in financing may be . . . the result of the groups' increased kidnapping and extortion activities in recent months. Given Libya's past support to the group, Tripoli may have recently provided limited funding.

Personnel: Many MRTA members are full-time professional combatants who receive a salary from the organization.