

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 15 FEBRUARY 1992.

ITEM

1. HAITI: REGIME'S CONFIDENCE GROWING [REDACTED]

REGIME POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT OF THEIR STAYING POWER. FOR NOW THEY PROBABLY WILL MAINTAIN AT LEAST A PRETENSE OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, BUT AS THEY CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION FURTHER THEY ARE LIKELY TO ORCHESTRATE AN INTERNAL SOLUTION THAT PERMANENTLY BARS PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S RETURN. [REDACTED]

REGIME LEADERS APPEAR IN NO HURRY TO RESTART THE OAS NEGOTIATIONS SUSPENDED LATE LAST MONTH. THEY POINT TO THE EASING OF THE EMBARGO AND TO WASHINGTON'S WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH THEM ON THE REPATRIATION ISSUE AS REASSURING SIGNS THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US ARE IMPROVING; ONE OFFICIAL HAS NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOW FOCUS EVEN MORE ON FORESTALLING DOMESTIC UNREST. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HIGH COMMAND SHIFTS GROUND

RECENT COMMAND CHANGES BY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS, WHO HAD SUPPORTED NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE STACKED THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP WITH OFFICERS OPPOSED TO TALKS. THE MOST POWERFUL OF THESE RECENTLY PROMOTED MILITARY HARDLINERS, POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, HAS BOASTED THAT THE NEW GENERAL STAFF IS MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO SHAPE

~~SECRET~~

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[REDACTED]

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMAND CHANGES
DIMINISH PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER SOLDIERS' REVOLT AGAINST THEIR
OFFICERS OR A PUTSCH. FRANCOIS' PROMOTION ALMOST CERTAINLY SENDS A
REASSURING SIGNAL TO ENLISTED TROOPS THAT BOTH PRIME-MINISTER-
DESIGNATE THEODORE'S CANDIDACY AND ARISTIDE'S REINSTATEMENT ARE DEAD
ISSUES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]