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[REDACTED]

PAGE 001

21 DEC 91

DIRECTOR 143321

DIRECTOR 143321

TO: HQSDISSEX.

SUBJECT:

20 DEC 91

GUAT

CITE GUATEMALA CITY

TO: DIRECTOR

TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA WASHINGTON DC,  
TREASURY DEPT, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PH.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

[REDACTED]

DIST: 20 DECEMBER 1991

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

SUBJ: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT SERRANO ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
THE DISMISSAL OF MENDOZA AND THE DESIRE TO DEFEND  
GUATEMALA ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

DOI: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SERRANO DISMISSED FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE (( MENDOZA)) GARCIA DUE TO MENDOZA'S CONTINUED  
BLOCKING OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES, TWO  
INVOLVING U.S. CITIZENS. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE U.S. CASES CITED BY  
SERRANO WERE THE MURDER OF MICHAEL (( DEVINE)) AND THE ASSAULT ON  
DIANA (( ORTIZ)). SERRANO HOPES THAT MENDOZA'S DISMISSAL EVENTUALLY  
WILL HELP ALLEVIATE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON GUATEMALA REGARDING THE  
MILITARY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. SERRANO FURTHER HOPES THAT THE NEW  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL JOSE DOMINGO (( GARCIA)) SAMAYOA WILL BE  
MORE RESPONSIVE TO HIS WISHES AND WILL UNDERSTAND THAT SERRANO RUNS  
THE COUNTRY AND THE ARMY. GARCIA SAMAYOA ALREADY HAS PROMISED  
SERRANO THAT HE WILL IMMEDIATELY ADVANCE THE INVESTIGATION  
SURROUNDING THE U.S. CITIZEN KILLED IN THE PETEN IN JUNE OF 1990,  
PER SERRANO'S INSTRUCTIONS. (SOURCE COMMENT: GARCIA WAS SELECTED  
PRINCIPALLY BASED ON SERRANO'S TRUST IN HIM AND HIS OUTSTANDING  
MILITARY CREDENTIALS WITHIN THE GUATEMALAN ARMY.)

2. SERRANO FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD TIRED OF DEFENDING  
THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY'S RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL  
FORA AND HOPED THAT BY CHANGING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HE COULD  
EVENTUALLY PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE TO GUATEMALA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE,  
WHICH HAD BEEN TAINTED BY DELAYS IN RESOLVING SEVERAL KEY HUMAN  
RIGHTS CASES. THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT IN THE PAST WHEN  
INSTRUCTED BY SERRANO TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS  
INVESTIGATIONS, MENDOZA WOULD EITHER DO AS HE (MENDOZA) WISHED OR  
IGNORE SERRANO'S INSTRUCTIONS ALTOGETHER.

3. SERRANO BELIEVES THAT, EVEN THOUGH HE HAS DONE MORE IN THE  
AREA OF CONTROLLING AND RESTRICTING THE ARMY THAN SOME FORMER MILITARY  
PRESIDENTS OF GUATEMALA, HE CONTINUES TO BE ATTACKED UNJUSTLY IN  
DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL FORA ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SERRANO EMPHASIZED  
THAT IT HAD REACHED THE POINT WHERE IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO  
DEFEND THE ARMY AND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. SERRANO CITED THE  
LATEST ATTACK ON THE MILITARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WHICH CAME DURING  
THE 13 - 14 DECEMBER 1991 CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT HELD  
IN TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS. DURING THE SUMMIT COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT  
RAFAEL ANGEL (( CALDERON)) ATTACKED SERRANO OVER GUATEMALA'S STANCE ON  
DEMILITARIZATION IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY COMMISSION (CASC)  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY IN GUATEMALA. SERRANO SUPPOSEDLY WAS AT  
THE POINT OF WALKING OUT OF THE MEETING WHEN HONDURAN PRESIDENT  
RAFAEL (( CALLEJAS)) REQUESTED HE REMAIN.

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[REDACTED]

DISSEM: FIELD: EMBASSY AT GUATEMALA CITY.

[REDACTED] USCINCSO.

[REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

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