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[REDACTED] IN LATE MAY 1991, GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE ((MENDOZA)) GARCIA LAUNCHED A SERIES OF SEVERE VERBAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (D-2). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MENDOZA SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO REMOVE CURRENT D-2 DIRECTOR COLONEL CESAR AUGUSTO ((CABRERA)) MEJIA BECAUSE HE WAS DOING MORE WORK FOR UNITED STATES (U.S.) INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES THAN FOR THE GUATEMALAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. MENDOZA ALSO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED THAT THE D-2 HAD FALLEN "UNDER THE CONTROL" OF U.S.

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INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND WAS COLLABORATING WITH THEM OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF NORMAL [REDACTED] RELATIONSHIPS. MENDOZA SAID HE HAD RECENTLY CONFIRMED HIS SUSPICIONS AND CLAIMED THE D-2 HAD, AS AN INSTITUTION, BEEN PROVIDING THE INFORMATION TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT HAD LED TO THE CUTOFF IN U.S. MILITARY AID. IN PARTICULAR, INFORMATION ON THE KILLING OF A U.S. CITIZEN IN PETEN DEPARTMENT, ALLEGEDLY BY GUATEMALAN TROOPS, HAD BEEN PASSED BY THE D-2 TO THE U.S. MENDOZA ADDITIONALLY CLAIMED THAT THE D-2 HAD DONE EVERYTHING ASKED OF IT BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUNCTUATED HIS COMMENTS WITH EXTREMELY COARSE REMARKS.

[REDACTED] (SOURCE COMMENTS:

[REDACTED] D-2 OFFICERS ARE ANGERED AND EMBARRASSED BY BOTH THE CONTENT AND TONE OF MENDOZA'S REMARKS. MORE SERIOUS, HOWEVER, IS AN APPARENT ATTEMPT BY HIM TO WEAKEN THE D-2 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MENDOZA IS USING THE D-2'S RELATIONSHIPS [REDACTED] AS A PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY HIS MOVES AGAINST IT. BECAUSE OF THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD, HE HAS BEEN WELL-INFORMED OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS FOR MANY YEARS, AND HIS SUPPOSED OPPOSITION TO THEM IS LARGELY FOR SHOW.

[REDACTED] THERE MAY BE OTHER MOTIVES BEHIND SOME OF THE ATTACKS ON THE D-2 AND ITS OFFICERS; SUPPORTERS OF MENDOZA HAVE FOLLOWED HIS LEAD IN ATTACKING THE D-2. FOR EXAMPLE, THE D-2 IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IN THE ARMY, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND COUP PLOTTING. NUMEROUS OFFICERS HAVE RUN AFOUL OF THE D-2 BECAUSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE ACTIVITIES, AND IT IS NATURAL THEY WOULD SEEK REVENGE. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING INTERESTS, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WEAKENED D-2, AS IT IS THE ONLY CREDIBLE ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY WITH AN ANTINARCOTICS ROLE. SOME OFFICERS BELIEVE IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SUCH INTERESTS HAVE GAINED ACCESS TO MENDOZA, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN MAKING OUTRAGEOUS STATEMENTS THAT ARE AFFECTING MORALE AND THE MINISTER'S OWN STANDING. MOREOVER, THE MINISTER HAS FAILED TO KEEP THE PRESIDENT INFORMED OF A VARIETY OF ISSUES AND, FOR THIS REASON, HAS BEEN "DISCIPLINED" BY THE PRESIDENT.)

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[] (FIELD COMMENT: [])

MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE D-2. THESE CHANGES, TO INCLUDE MOST OF THE SENIOR D-2 POSITIONS, WERE TO BE ANNOUNCED ABOUT 31 MAY. []

[] THE CHANGES WERE REQUESTED DIRECTLY BY MENDOZA. CABRERA, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE D-2, WAS TO BE REPLACED BY MOBILE MILITARY POLICE (PMA) COMMANDER COLONEL MARCO ANTONIO ((GONZALEZ)) TARACENA. []

END OF MESSAGE

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