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TO: DIRECTOR.

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SUBJECT: GUATEMALA COUNTRY ATMOSPHERICS NO. 23 - PRESS REVIEW FOR 7-9 AUGUST 1993

REF: NONE.

TEXT:

1. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR CIA BACKGROUND USE ONLY, HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED IN THE MISSION, AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE IN FINISHED ANALYSIS OR INCORPORATION INTO DATA BASES. [Redacted] THE INFORMATION IS NOT BEING DISSEMINATED IN INTEL FORMAT AS IT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION.

2. DAILY "SIGLO VEINTIUNO:" IN SATURDAY'S EDITION CRITICIZED THE NATIONAL POLICE FOR "AGGRESSION" AGAINST JOURNALISTS COVERING STUDENT PROTESTS IN ZONE 1. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER DEPUTY HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN CESAR ALVARES GUADAMUZ WAS NAMED GUAT AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. THE CIVIL COORDINATOR FOR PEACE (COCIPAZ) AND CIVIL SECTOR COORDINATOR (CSC) ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POPULAR SECTORS IN ITS NEW PEACE FORMULA. FORMER VICE PRESIDENT FRANCISCO VILLAGRAN KRAMER WAS NAMED TO HEAD THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BELIZE COMMISSION. DURING A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DCG) MEETING IN ANTIGUA, LEGISLATORS CLODOVEO DOMINGUEZ AND ANDRES GIRON WERE "SUSPENDED" FROM THE PARTY FOR INDISCIPLINE. MARIO RENE CIFUENTES ECHEVERRIA WAS NAMED NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF. SATURDAY'S EDITION NOTED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT A STOP TO THE SALE OF TEACHING POSITIONS BY CLEANING UP HIS DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL. OBSERVERS ARE SPECULATING THAT THE NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (BANVI) WILL BE LIQUIDATED, AS ITS ASSETS ARE GENERALLY NON-PERFORMING AND THE INSTITUTION IS TECHNICALLY BANKRUPT. PROSECUTOR GENERAL EDGAR TUNA VALLADARES ORDERED THE EXHUMATION OF A GRAVE THOUGHT TO

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BELONG TO GUERRILLA COMMANDER EFRAIN BAMACA. SUNDAY EDITION QUOTES NEW POLICE CHIEF CIFUENTES AS SAYING HE'LL BRING THOSE WHO HAVE "GHOST-JOBS"--I.E. THOSE ON THE PAYROLL WHO NEVER WORK--IN THE NATIONAL POLICE TO JUSTICE. AN APPEALS COURT SENTENCED CESAR AUGUSTO AVENDANO, FRANCISCO SOSA, AND SIMON SOSA FLORES TO 12 YEARS IN JAIL FOR THE SALE OF MARIJUANA.

3. DAILY "PRENSA LIBRE:" IN NEWS NOT MENTIONED ABOVE, NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT PARTY (PAN) LEGISLATOR CARLOS VALLE REQUESTED PRESIDENT DE LEON SHUT DOWN THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF (ESTADO MAYOR PRESIDENCIAL-EMP) ALTOGETHER, RATHER THAN JUST STOP WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY SERVICE "ARCHIVOS." SATURDAY COVER SAYS THAT THE MAJORITY OF PANAMANIAN POLLED BY THE FIRM "CID-GALLUP" WOULD JUST AS SOON SEE DEPOSED GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT SERRANO EXTRADITED. POLICE CAPTURED MYNOR IVAN ESTRADA, MARCO ANTONIO CASTRO, AND NELSON RENATO VELIZ DELGADO IN SAN LUCAS SACATEPEQUEZ, WITH 320 GRAMS OF COCAINE. THEY ALSO HAD A CHECK BOOK FROM BANCO DEL CAFE, ACCOUNT NUMBER 05-01-01818-2 IN THEIR POSSESSION. CONGRESSIONAL REFORM BILL RECEIVED FULL-PAGE COVERAGE. THE BILL WOULD ADD TRANSPARENCY TO THE CONDUCT OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL DEALINGS. THE UNITED REPRESENTATION OF THE GUATEMALAN OPPOSITION (RUOG) SAYS IT WILL NOT REPLACE THE URNG IN ANY PEACE FORUM WITH THE GOVERNMENT. SUNDAY HEADLINES SAY AUTHORITIES FORESEE A SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICITY BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF A TURBINE PROVIDED BY A U.S. FIRM. EIGHTY FOUR PERCENT OF GUATEMALANS POLLED BY PRENSA LIBRE (NO SAMPLE SIZE NOTED) WANT THE SUPREME COURT TO BE PURGED.

4. DAILY "EL GRAFICO:" THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT SAID THE NATIONAL POLICE WAS CREATING A TECHNICAL CORPS COMPOSED OF A PROFESSIONAL CADRE OF UNIVERSITY-EDUCATED AGENTS TO DO ADVANCED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. HIS FIRST APPOINTMENTS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. A STREET BATTLE BETWEEN POLICE AND CAR THIEVES LEFT ONE DEAD AND TWO WOUNDED. CONGRESSMAN OBDULIO CHINCHILLA VEGA, WOUNDED IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, WILL BE RETURNING TO HIS SPOT IN THE LEGISLATURE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT REPORTEDLY ALLEGES THAT THE CARPIO NICOLLE KILLING WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. IN THE NATIONAL DEBATE OVER THE DEATH PENALTY, VICE PRESIDENT HERBRUGER INSISTS THAT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE APPLIED IN GUATEMALA.

5. FILE: [REDACTED]  
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