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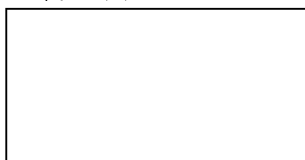
Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Friday, 28 January 1994



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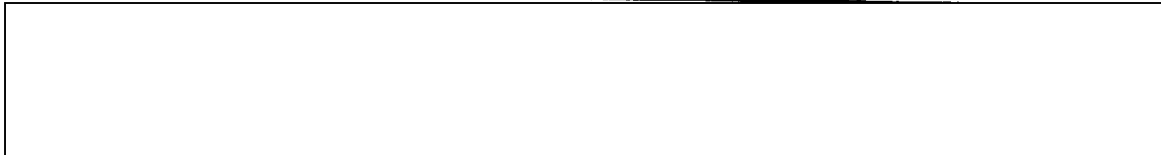
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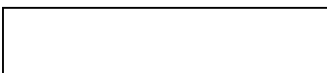
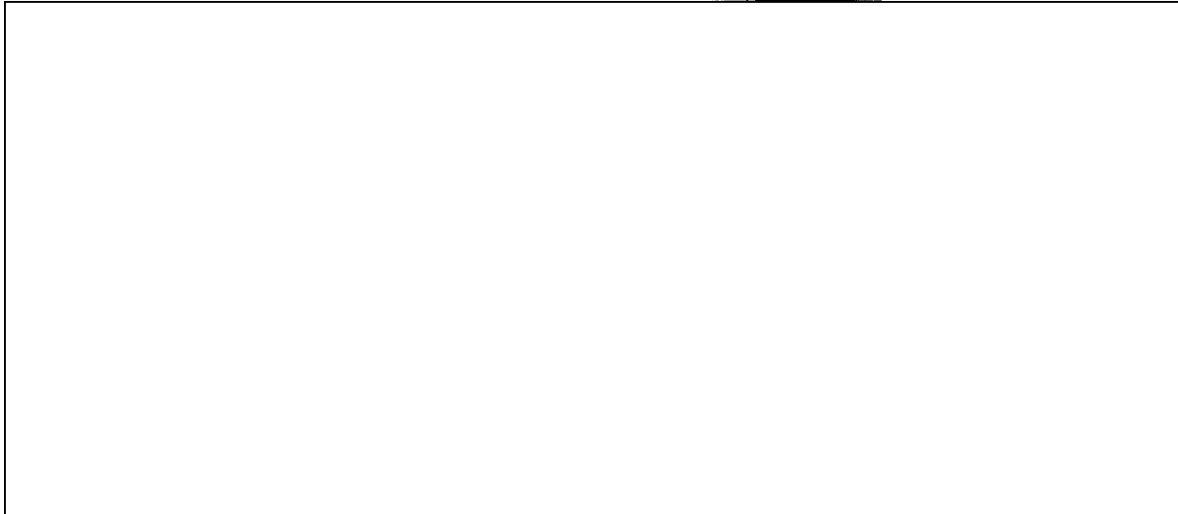


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MEXICO:

Government Broadening Chiapas Strategy

The government and the military are pushing to settle the Chiapas uprising while augmenting longer-term counterinsurgency capabilities.

[redacted]

The government yesterday signed an accord with eight parties that provides for independent electoral authorities, a prohibition on party use of government funds, and an electoral fraud prosecutor. Salinas has met with indigenous leaders in Chiapas and created three commissions to investigate grievances. The Congress recently approved his amnesty offer for all insurgents. Government officials have consulted with leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party leaders on negotiating tactics.

[redacted]

[redacted] the military plans to increase substantially its equipment purchases. [redacted] the military has temporarily reduced counternarcotics operations by half so that 15,000 of its 25,000 antidrug troops and all of its helicopters can be redirected to Chiapas. The [redacted] uprising has revived military interest in creating a contingency force, adding 10 battalions nationwide, and buying transport aircraft. [redacted]

Comment: Salinas's public moves are probably intended to dampen antigovernment sentiment, while his consultations with the opposition may serve to dilute inevitable political attacks during the presidential campaign. Yesterday's accord provides for unprecedented prodemocracy provisions, but some measures, particularly prosecution of fraud, could prove difficult. [redacted]

The military is poorly prepared for counterinsurgency operations. [redacted]

Although the armed forces probably will receive sufficient funds to purchase inexpensive basic weapons, budgetary constraints may force it to forgo buying transports aircraft and other items. Diversion of at least some counternarcotics forces to Chiapas will almost certainly continue even after a political settlement is reached and may significantly diminish Mexico's eradication capabilities this year. [redacted]

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