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DIST: 06 OCTOBER 1983
COUNTRY: CENTRAL AMERICA/MEXICO/SOUTH KOREA

SUBJ: MILITARY COMMANDERS' OVERVIEW OF THE INSURGENCY AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN GUATEMALA; HOPES FOR INCREASED
MILITARY AID

DDI: LATE SEPTEMBER 1983

SOURCE:



SUMMARY: IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1983, THE GUATEMALAN CHIEF OF
STATE AND THE GENERAL STAFF RECEIVED A BRIEFING
BY THE MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS ON THE STATE OF
PROGRESS AGAINST THE INSURGENCY AND IN RURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR AREAS. SEVERAL OF THE
COMMANDERS IN THE ZONES OF CONFLICT REPORT A BELIEF
THAT THE RECENT LOWER LEVEL OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY
INDICATES THAT THE SUBVERSIVES ARE PREPARING NEW
OFFENSIVES, AND SOME OF THE COLONELS COMPLAIN OF
SHORTAGE OF SUPPLIES. GENERAL MEJIA INFORMED THE
COMMANDERS OF PLANS TO INCREASE MILITARY AID, AND
THAT HE WILL SOON BRING THE HEADS OF THE APPROPRIATE
MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO VISIT THE
ZONES, IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

TEXT: 1. IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1983, GUATEMALAN CHIEF OF STATE
GENERAL OSCAR HUMBERTO ((MEJIA)) VICTORES AND HIS GENERAL

STAFF WERE BRIEFED BY THE COMMANDERS OF THE MILITARY
ZONES ON PROGRESS AGAINST THE INSURGENCY AND IN RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT. EACH COMMANDER GAVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION. DUE TO THE
TIME INVOLVED IN THIS COUNTRY-WIDE OVERVIEW, THE FIRST OF ITS
KIND IN MANY MONTHS, VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION OR EVALUATION OF
THE PRESENTATIONS WAS ATTEMPTED.

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2. COLONEL VICTOR AUGUSTO ((VASQUEZ)) ECHEVERRIA, COMMANDER OF CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT THE LAST ENCOUNTER WITH ARMED INSURGENTS IN HIS AREA OCCURRED ON 8 JULY, IN WHICH EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE "FELICIANO ARGUETA" FRONT WERE CAPTURED. HE INTERPRETS THE LACK OF ACTIVITY SINCE THEN TO MEAN THAT THE REMAINING GUERRILLAS HAVE FLED INTO NEIGHBORING DEPARTMENTS. PATROLS ARE BEING MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES (CDF). THE COLONEL SAID THAT THE POPULATION IS HAVING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, SINCE THE HARVEST IS NOT YET IN AND SEASONAL JOBS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE RECENTLY-APPOINTED MINISTERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FUNCTION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR, AND NEED TO RECEIVE ORIENTATION TO IMPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. COMMENT: THE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATORS ARE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEES SENT FROM THE CAPITAL TO EACH DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. WITHOUT PROPER MINISTERIAL ENCOURAGEMENT, HOWEVER, THE REPRESENTATIVES TEND TO STAY IN GUATEMALA CITY AND NEGLECT THEIR DUTIES.)

3. COLONEL VASQUEZ SAID THAT A LATE SEPTEMBER STUDENT PROTEST MARCH FROM CHIMALTENANGO (14-40N, 90-49W) TO THE CAPITAL WAS FOMENTED BY A TEACHER WHO IS IN LEAGUE WITH THE SUBVERSIVES. THE PURPOSE OF THE MARCH WAS TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUATEMALAN LABOR (COMMUNIST) PARTY (PGT); AND, HAD THE MARCHERS REACHED THE CITY, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN JOINED BY STUDENTS OF TWO SCHOOLS IN THE CAPITAL AREA. THE COLONEL ADDED THAT THE TEACHER HAD BEEN FIRED. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MARCH, WHICH PROTESTED MILITARY USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY IN CHIMALTENANGO, WAS HALTED BY THE AUTHORITIES AT SUMPANGO (14-39N, 90-44W), WHERE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE.)

4. COLONEL ROBERTO ENRIQUE ((MATA)) GALVEZ, COMMANDER OF EL QUICHE, REPORTED THAT HIS TROOPS HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL AGAINST THE INSURGENTS AND IN PACIFICATION THAT THE "AUGUSTO C. SANDINO" FRONT HAS COLLAPSED. ITS MEMBERS NOW FORM THE "19TH OF JANUARY" UNIT WITHIN THE "HO CHI MINH" FRONT, NORTH OF NEBAJ (15-24N, 91-08W). THE COLONEL CHARACTERIZED THE 19TH OF JANUARY UNIT, COMPOSED OF FOUR PLATOONS OF 26-28 MEN EACH, AS CUBAN-TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED. IN ADDITION TO THESE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) FRONTS IN EL QUICHE, THE COMMANDER SAID THAT UNITS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) HAVE BEEN DETECTED NEAR THE TOTONICAPAN AND CHIMALTENANGO DEPARTMENTAL BORDERS. COLONEL MATA NOTED THE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT OF FIVE GUERRILLA COMMANDERS (UNIDENTIFIED) SURRENDERING WITHIN ONE WEEK RECENTLY. HE ADDED THAT ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO EXPEDITE THIS BY HAVING THE GUERRILLA COMMANDERS BROADCAST MESSAGES FROM HELICOPTERS TO THEIR FORMER COHORTS, BUT THAT THE EFFORT HAS BEEN LIMITED BY THE POOR PUBLIC ADDRESS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE. THE COLONEL SAID THAT HE HOPES TO RESETTLE 3,000 REFUGEES IN THE ACUL (15-25N, 91-08W) AREA WEST OF NEBAJ, BUT HE LACKS FUNDS FOR THE MOVE. HE CLOSED BY SAYING THAT HE HOPES TO COMPLETE THE PACIFICATION OF EL QUICHE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. COMMENT: COLONEL MATA IS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PACIFICATION PROCESS.)

5. COLONEL HECTOR ((HERNANDEZ)) CATALAN, COMMANDER OF HUEHUETENANGO, SAID THAT HE HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE FROM THE SUBVERSIVES IN HIS DEPARTMENT BY EMPLOYING HIS TROOPS IN MOBILE UNITS, OPERATING FROM THE FRONTIERS OF THE DEPARTMENT TOWARD THE CENTER. THE COLONEL HAS 90,000 CDF MEMBERS DEPLOYED, AND THE POPULATION SEEMS MUCH LESS FEARFUL OF THE ARMY, WITH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PROGRESSING WELL. HERNANDEZ SAID THAT 78 SEPARATE REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEXICO ARE BEING UTILIZED BY THE SUBVERSIVES, AND THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ARE OVERSTATING TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND DISTRIBUTING THE RESULTING EXCESS RATIONS TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THE COLONEL ADDED THAT MEXICAN REPORTS OF GUATEMALAN MILITARY

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INCURSIONS INTO MEXICAN TERRITORY ARE FALSE, SINCE HIS TROOPS HAVE STRICT ORDERS NOT TO CROSS THE FRONTIER. [Redacted]
COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO THE ABOVE FIGURES, MEXICO CITY EMSTEL 08823, DATED 10 JUNE 1983, REPORTED THAT THERE ARE 35,000-45,000 GUATEMALAN REFUGEES IN 27 CAMPS IN THE CHIAPAS BORDER REGION.)

6. COLONEL RENE ANTONIO ((CARBALLO)) MORALES, COMMANDER OF THE PLAYA GRANDE AREA IN NORTHERN EL QUICHE, SAID THAT HIS TROOPS HAVE DESTROYED MANY SUBVERSIVE CAMPS TO THE SOUTH OF PLAYA GRANDE (15-56N, 90-44W), AND SOME 4,000 INSURGENTS AND SUPPORTERS HAVE SURRENDERED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. HOWEVER, HIS MEN HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED MANY LARGE CACHES OF ARMS AND SUPPLIES NEAR THE BORDER AND HAVE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT 24 SIX-MAN INSURGENT SQUADS HAVE BEEN DETAILED TO PROTECT OTHER, UNLOCATED STORES. THE COLONEL NOTED THAT MANY OF THE CACHES CONTAIN POWDERED MILK AND COOKING OIL FROM THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEXICO. HE OPINED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE LARGE CACHES INDICATES THAT THE SUBVERSIVES ARE PREPARING FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE. IN CLOSING, CARBALLO POINTED OUT THAT HIS AREA HAS AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

7. COLONEL ALVARO ((BARAHONA)) ESCOBAR, COMMANDER OF SOLOLA, SAID THAT HIS REGION HAS HAD MINIMAL ENEMY ACTIVITY IN RECENT MONTHS. HIS TROOPS SECURE STRATEGIC POINTS SUCH AS LOS ENCIENTROS (14-37N, 91-02W), PANAJACHEL (14-44N, 91-09W), GOODINEZ (14-42N, 91-06W), AND SAN LUCAS TOLIMAN (14-38N, 91-06W), AND MOST PATROLING IS CONDUCTED AS TRAINING EXERCISES FOR THE CDF.

8. COLONEL JOSE LUIS ((DIAZ)) MUNOZ, COMMANDER OF QUEZALTENANGO, SAID THAT THE ORPA HAS MEMBERS IN 90 PERCENT OF HIS DEPARTMENT, AND THAT HIS SOLDIERS HAVE DISCOVERED CACHES AND TRAINING CAMPS. ALTHOUGH THE INSURGENTS APPEAR TO BE IN A QUIET PERIOD, A RECENTLY CAPTURED PRISONER WHO HAD TWO YEARS OF GUERRILLA EXPERIENCE SAID THAT AN OFFENSIVE IS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER. THE COLONEL ADDED THAT PRESSURE FROM HIS OPERATIONS HAS FORCED THE ORPA TO MOVE ITS MAIN LOGISTICS ROUTE (FROM MEXICO) SOUTH FROM THE HIGHLAND ROAD TO THE COASTAL HIGHWAY (CA-2).

9. COLONEL LUIS ALFONSO ((REBULI)) CAPELLI, COMMANDER OF SAN MARCOS, REPORTED THAT THE ORPA HAS SIX FRONTS OPERATING IN HIS DEPARTMENT, ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY HAS BEEN LOW THROUGH AUGUST. HE CONFIRMED THAT FRONT FOUR HAS MOVED

THE MAIN LOGISTICS ROUTE SOUTH TO THE COASTAL ROUTE AND NOTED THAT THE TEN ORPA COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE SAN MARCOS (14-58N, 91-48W) AREA ARE BECOMING DESPERATE ENOUGH TO EXPEL CAMPESINOS FROM THEIR HOUSES AND LAND, IN ORDER TO STEAL THEIR SUPPLIES. IN A RECENT ACTION AGAINST FRONT FIVE, HIS TROOPS REGAINED CONTROL OF TWO FARMS, KILLING FOUR AND CAPTURING 23 OF THE FRONT'S 106 MEMBERS. REBULI STATED THAT HE HAS 33 OFFICER SLOTS VACANT [Redacted] COMMENT: APPROXIMATELY HALF OF HIS STAFF) AND IS OPERATING WITH ONLY HALF OF HIS APPROVED (BUT NOT DELIVERED) WEAPONS, 30 PERCENT OF HIS VEHICLES, AND TEN PERCENT OF HIS INSTALLATIONS.

10. COLONEL CARLOS IGNACIO ((GONZALEZ)) PALACIOS, COMMANDER OF RETALHULEU, SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS VERY LITTLE INSURGENT ACTIVITY NOW, AND THAT THE GUERRILLA FOCUS APPEARS TO BE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, ON INDOCTRINATION. THE COLONEL REPORTED 17,800 CDF MEMBERS DEPLOYED; AND THAT ORPA CAMPS HAVE BEEN DETECTED NEAR OCSITO (14-35N, 91-40W), PURULHA (15-16N, 90-12W), AND SAN MARTIN CHIQUITO (14-48N, 92-40W). HE MENTIONED CORRUPTION PROBLEMS WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE IN HIS AREA AND DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS AMONG THE TEACHERS ASSIGNED THERE. THE COMMANDER CLOSED BY POINTING OUT THAT THE ECONOMIC

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SITUATION IN RETALHULEU IS NOT IMPROVING, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE BANKS ARE REFUSING TO LEND TO THE FARMERS.

11. COLONEL OSCAR GILBERTO ((HERNANDEZ)) MENDEZ, COMMANDER OF MAZATENANGO, REPORTED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN ZONES BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE AREA'S MAIN HIGHWAY (CA-2). BUT THAT HIS TROOPS AND THE CDF ARE EXERCISING EFFECTIVE CONTROL. OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT RECENTLY NEAR PATULUL (14-25N, 91-10W) AND SOUTH OF SAN LUCAS TOLIMAN, AND ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS WAS KILLED IN AN AMBUSH. THE POLICE CHIEF IN SAN ANTONIO SUCHITEPEQUEZ (14-32N, 91-25W) WAS KILLED RECENTLY BY TERRORISTS; AND CRPA COMANDANTE "TANYA" WAS WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK, BUT MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

12. NAVAL CAPTAIN JUAN MARIANO ((GIRON)) PELAEZ, COMMANDER OF THE SIPACATE AREA (13-56N, 91-09W), SAID THAT BOTH MEXICAN AND SALVADORAN BOATS COME INTO GUATEMALAN WATERS TO FISH ILLEGALLY AND TO STEAL THE CATCH OF LOCAL FISHERMEN. HIS PATROLING IS HAMPERED, HOWEVER, BY A SHORTAGE OF FUEL. THE CAPTAIN ALSO REPORTED INSURGENT PLANS TO BURN THE COTTON CROP THIS YEAR, BY INFILTRATING SUBVERSIVES WITH THE MIGRANT WORKERS WHO COME FROM THE HIGHLANDS FOR THE HARVEST. COMMENT: SIMILAR EFFORTS IN THE PAST HAVE UTILIZED SIMPLE DELAYED-ACTION INCENDIARIES CONSTRUCTED FROM CANDLES AND PLASTIC JARS FILLED WITH GASOLINE AND PLACED IN THE FIELDS AT NIGHT. THE PERPETRATOR IS FAR FROM THE SCENE WHEN THE FIRE BEGINS AND CORRESPONDINGLY DIFFICULT TO CATCH.)

13. COLONEL ALFREDO ((GARCIA)) GOMEZ OF THE AIRBORNE BASE AT SAN JOSE (14-08N, 89-55W) REPORTED HIS AREA QUIET AND MOST OF THE POPULATION TO BE ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UNEMPLOYMENT AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE MARITIME FACILITY IN SAN JOSE COULD FUEL UNREST, HOWEVER.

14. COLONEL DOMINGO SALVADOR ((TOBIAS)) SOLIS OF SANTA ROSA SAID THAT HE HAS JUST COMPLETED A FOUR-MONTH REORGANIZATION OF HIS REGION. INFORMANTS REPORT THAT THE "HUMBERTO ALVARADO" SUBVERSIVE FRONT IS IN THE SANTA ROSA AREA, AND THAT EGP COMMANDER "IXBEL," AKA "RENE," HAS 32 GUERRILLAS TO THE SOUTH OF THE TEQUAMBURRO VOLCANO (14-09N, 90-24W). TWO ARMED INSURGENT LIEUTENANTS WERE CAPTURED BY THE COLONEL'S FORCES RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH NO ARMED CONFRONTATIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE AREA, THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF ARMS ARRIVING FROM EL SALVADOR VIA THE CHIQUIMULILLA CANAL (13-55N, 90-30W).

15. COLONEL JOSE BENEDICTO ((ORTEGA)) GOMEZ OF JUTIAPA SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS MANY SALVADORANS COMING IN, BOTH LEGALLY AND ILLEGALLY; AND THAT WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT, THESE WOULD BE RIPE FOR SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCE.

16. COLONEL LEONEL ((SIERRA)) DE LA CRUZ, COMMANDER OF JALAPA, SAID THAT THERE IS NO INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN HIS AREA. WHERE AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE ARE ANTI-COMMUNIST.

17. COLONEL LUIS ALBERTO ((PAREDES)) NAJERA OF CHIQUIMULA SAID THAT HE HAS 12 CDF COMPANIES IN HIS REGION, WHERE AN INSURGENT ARMS SUPPLY ROUTE EXISTS FROM SANTA ROSA DE COPAN IN HONDURAS. HE ADDED THAT THE EGP IS DEVELOPING STRENGTH IN THE "XOLTI TRIANGLE," THE AREA OF JOCOTAN (14-49N, 89-23W), CAMOTAN (14-49N, 89-22W), AND SAN JUAN ERMITA (14-46N, 89-28W).

18. COLONEL JULIO CESAR ((AVILA)) GIRON, COMMANDER OF ZACAPA, REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF LEFTIST RECRUITS RECENTLY SURRENDERED TO THE GOVERNMENT AT CABANAS (14-56N, 89-48W).

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19. NAVAL CAPTAIN FRANCISCO ((TORRES)) CHEWEN, COMMANDER OF IZABAL, SAID THAT GUERRILLA FRONTS EXIST THROUGHOUT HIS DEPARTMENT; AND THAT 337 REFUGEES, ALL MALNOURISHED WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ARE IN HIS CARE, WITH INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THEM.

20. COLONEL LUIS ROBERTO ((TOBAR)) MARTINEZ, COMMANDER OF THE PETEN, REPORTED THAT THE REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR) HAVE THREE FRONTS IN HIS AREA, "LUICID RAMIREZ," "RAUL ORANTES," AND "FELICIANO ARGUETA ROJAS." A UNIT KNOWN AS THE "RETALTECOS" OPERATES NEAR THE USUMACINTA RIVER (16-45N, 90-45W) TO INFILTRATE SUPPLIES FROM MEXICO. ONE GUERRILLA COMMANDER, "ANDROCLES," HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE PETEN FOR PERHAPS TWENTY YEARS. THE INSURGENTS HAVE BEGUN USING CONVENTIONAL LAND MINES AGAINST TRUCKS, RATHER THAN THEIR TRADITIONALLY EMPLOYED CLAYMORES.

21. LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSE VIDAL ((CAMPDS)) BONILLA, COMMANDER OF THE BASE AT SANTA ELENA (16-55N, 89-54W), SAID THAT HE NO LONGER SENDS GROUND REINFORCEMENTS WHEN UNITS ARE AMBUSHED,

SINCE ANOTHER AMBUSH IS ALWAYS WAITING FOR THE RESCUERS; SUPPORT FOR AMBUSHED FORCES IS NOW RESTRICTED TO AIR REACTION. THE COLONEL NOTED THAT THE FAR'S "FELICIANO ARGUETA ROJAS" FRONT IS DEVOTING ITSELF TO ATTACKING COMMERCIAL (TRUCK) TRAFFIC BETWEEN BELIZE AND FLORES (16-56N, 89-53W) AND TO THE SOUTH. RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT THE INSURGENTS PLANNED OBJECTIVES FOR ATTACK ARE: EL NARANJO (16-52N, 89-20W), EL SUBIN (16-40N, 90-15W), PIPILES (NOT LOCATED), SAYAXCHE (16-31N, 90-10W), AND THE SANTA ELENA AIRBASE.

22. COLONEL OTTO ERICK ((PONCE)) MORALES, COMMANDER OF ALTA VERAPAZ, REPORTED THAT HIS AREA INCLUDES THE "MARCO ANTONIO YON SOGA" FRONT, AND ANOTHER, SMALLER FRONT MADE UP OF DISSIDENTS FROM OTHER GROUPS, WHICH OPERATES NEAR PANZOS (15-24N, 89-40W). INSURGENT OBJECTIVES INCLUDE THE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AT CHIXOY (15-23N, 90-36W), THE MUNITIONS FACTORY AT COBAN (15-29N, 90-19W), AND THE POLOCHIC VALLEY (15-20N, 89-45W). THE COLONEL NOTED THAT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY (INDE) RECENTLY DISPATCHED 800 MEN TO GUARD THE CHIXOY PROJECT, AND OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS A SMALL COMMITMENT FOR FACILITIES WHICH HAD COST GUATEMALA MORE THAN U.S.\$900 MILLION.

23. COLONEL ERICK LEONEL ((MENDIZABAL)) VALDEZ, COMMANDER OF BAJA VERAPAZ, SAID THAT HIS AREA INCLUDES THE EGP "TEODORO SICAL" FRONT, WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO ZONES "ETHIOPIA" AND "ZIMBABWE," AND FURTHER SUBDIVIDED IN SECTORS "VERDE," "BLANCO," "TIKAL," AND "MAYA." THIS ELABORATE STRUCTURE APPEARS INACTIVE, HOWEVER, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT CLASHES WITH HIS TROOPS. FOR THIS REASON THE COLONEL SPECULATES THAT THE FRONT MAY BE DEVOTED TO HIDING PERSONS KIDNAPPED IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THE ONLY OTHER DETECTED ACTIVITIES ARE THOSE OF EGP LOGISTICS PERSONNEL OPERATING AT GRANADOS (14-55N, 90-31W), EL CHOL (14-55N, 90-28W), AND RABINAL (15-06N, 90-27W).

24. GENERAL MEJIA CLOSED THE SESSION BY COMMENTING THAT INCREASES IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY AROUND THE COUNTRY WERE AN INSURGENT TACTIC TO DISTRACT THE SECURITY FORCES FROM THEIR

RECENT SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AND TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON THE GUERRILLAS. THE GENERAL SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET ON 1 OCTOBER WITH THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE OF HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, AND COSTA RICA, AND THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMANDER, TO DISCUSS THE REACTIVATION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE COUNCIL (CONDECA). MEJIA SAID HE HOPED THAT A NEW CONDECA WOULD ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO RESUME MILITARY AID TO

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GUATEMALA. HE ADDED THAT A SHIP WOULD ARRIVE IN OCTOBER FROM SOUTH KOREA, BRINGING 400 M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS WITH MUNITIONS TO IMPROVE THE ARMED FORCES' FIREPOWER. [Redacted]
COMMENT: THESE ARE CLEARLY THE GRENADE LAUNCHERS GENERAL MEJIA DESCRIBED IN AN EARLIER SESSION AS BEING PURCHASED FROM SINGAPORE. APPARENTLY THE GENERAL WAS THEN IN ERROR, AND THE SUPPLIER IS ACTUALLY SOUTH KOREA.) MEJIA SAID THAT HE WOULD SOON BEGIN BRINGING THE APPROPRIATE MINISTERS AND AGENCY CHIEFS ON HIS VISITS TO THE COMMANDERS, SO THAT THEY COULD SEE THE SITUATION FIRSTHAND AND PERHAPS IMPROVE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

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