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~~(S)~~ [ ] (NF) **SUBJ: SUSPICION OF COMMANDER OF EXECUTIVE MANSION GUARD BEHIND THE KILLING OF BUCHANAN COMMANDER**

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[ ] DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR. DECL [ ] RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT. > ORIG/REL: [ ] NNNNEND OF MESSAGE ~~SECRET~~

~~(S)~~ [ ] (NF) 1. THERE IS A GROWING SUSPICION AMONG ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) SERVICEMEN AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING LIBERIAN PRESIDENT SAMUEL K. ((DOE)) THAT EXECUTIVE MANSION GUARD (EMG) COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES ((JULUE)) WAS BEHIND THE KILLING OF THE BUCHANAN COMMANDER LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL ((APPLETON)). APPLETON WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED ON 29 MAY 1990 WHEN REBELS ATTACKED THE PORT CITY OF BUCHANAN AFTER THE AFL HAD RETAKEN IT DURING THE WEEKEND OF 26-27 MAY.

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(S/[ ] NF) 2. APPLETON WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE SOLDIERS IN HIS UNIT BECAUSE OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO LEAD HIS MEN INTO BATTLE AND HIS CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE. APPLETON'S UNIT WAS COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE KRAHN, KRU, AND GREBO ETHNIC GROUPS. [ ] COMMENT: OTHER REPORTING INDICATES THAT APPLETON WAS INDEED A CAPABLE MILITARY COMMANDER WHO EARNED THE RESPECT OF HIS SOLDIERS. HOWEVER, APPLETON DID NOT MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTROL OVER HIS SOLDIERS WHO WERE FREQUENTLY ACCUSED OF HARASSING AND ABUSING THE LOCAL CITIZENS OF BUCHANAN. THESE ABUSES, IN PART, SUBSEQUENTLY LED TO CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE REBELS. APPLETON WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE VERY CORRUPT AND A HEAVY DRINKER.)

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(S/[ ] NF) 3. THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS GAVE MUCH OF THE CREDIT TO JULUE WHEN REPORTING THE INITIAL AFL RECAPTURE OF BUCHANAN ON 26 MAY 1990. UPON LEARNING OF THE PRESS REPORTS, APPLETON'S UNIT BECAME ANGRY AND LATER CONFRONTED JULUE. JULUE DENIED ACCEPTING CREDIT FOR THE VICTORY AND TOLD THE SOLDIERS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THE NEWS MEDIA. THE SOLDIERS QUESTIONED JULUE'S SINCERITY AND HIS CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE. THE SOLDIERS ARGUED THAT NEITHER JULUE NOR OTHER SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS FOUGHT IN THE BATTLES AGAINST THE REBELS AND FREQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE SAFETY OF MONROVIA AT NIGHT. THE SOLDIERS REFUSED TO LISTEN TO JULUE WHO THEN LEFT THE SCENE. SEVERAL OF JULUE'S EMG SOLDIERS, WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO APPLETON'S UNIT, LATER TOLD HIM THAT APPLETON WAS UNDERMINING HIS AUTHORITY AND SOUGHT TO REPLACE HIM AS THE TOP MILITARY LEADER. JULUE CONFRONTED APPLETON AND ACCUSED HIM OF BECOMING TOO AMBITIOUS. APPLETON WAS VISIBLY SHAKEN, BUT RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING JULUE'S JOB AND ONLY WANTED TO DEFEAT THE REBELS. JULUE DID NOT ARGUE THE MATTER AND DEPARTED.

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(S/[ ] NF) 4. FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT JULUE AND COLONEL DAVID ((NIMELY)) RETURNED TO MONROVIA AND LATER MET WITH DOE WHO HAD INQUIRED ABOUT THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN APPLETON AND JULUE. JULUE TOLD DOE THEY HAD RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES AND WERE STILL ON GOOD TERMS. APPLETON WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED FOLLOWING ANOTHER REBEL ATTACK ON BUCHANAN. SEVERAL SOLDIERS REPORTED SEEING APPLETON ENTER A BUILDING WITH TWO BODYGUARDS TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL. OTHER SOLDIERS CONTEND THAT THE TWO BODYGUARDS WERE JULUE'S MEN WHO KILLED APPLETON AND BLAMED HIS DEATH ON THE REBELS. AFTER LEARNING OF APPLETON'S DEATH, DOE BECAME UPSET AND REMARKED OFFHANDEDLY THAT JULUE PROBABLY HAD MORE TO DO WITH APPLETON'S DEATH THAN THE REBELS. ( [ ] COMMENT: THERE IS NO SOLID EVIDENCE THAT JULUE ORDERED THE KILLING OF APPLETON; HOWEVER, BASED ON JULUE'S PAST ACTIONS IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING FOR HIM TO ELIMINATE ANYONE SUSPECTED OF BEING A THREAT TO HIM. IN ADDITION, MANY PEOPLE FEAR JULUE AND SUSPECT THAT HE IS ALSO BEHIND THE RECENT RASH OF KILLINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE GIO AND MANO ETHNIC GROUPS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT IF DOE SHOULD DECIDE TO STEP DOWN, JULUE MAY MOVE TO EITHER ELIMINATE OR REPLACE DOE AS THE COUNTRY'S LEADER.)

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