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CIACPAS NIDC 83-292C \_\_\_

## National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

Thursday 15 December 1983

CPAS MIDC 85-2920
18 December 1983

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//The US detense attache reports that on Tuesday grattacked a National Guard unit at Ciudad Barrios and a n	(b)(	3)
hunter battalion at nearby Cerro Cacahuatique. Other un including airborne troops—have been sent by helicopter the defenders, but the insurgents claim to have dislodged battalion with heavy losses. Helicopters, A-37 ground attained some artillery are providing fire support for the governorces	nits— er to reinforce ed the stack aircraft,	3)
Comment: //The attacks may be the beginning of the the insurgents have planned for this month. Although thei objective remains unclear, they may be hoping only to dra forces away from the central part of the country. In any cafighting will test the Army's new command structure.  //The military has some 18 medium-lift helicopters, at which normally are fully operational, and 15 light helicopter ability to assemble elements of two battalions quickly and them to the battlefront is likely to give the commanders a confidence both in the mobility of their forces and in their command and control.	eir ultimate raw Army case, the (b)( about half of ters. Its id transport a new	
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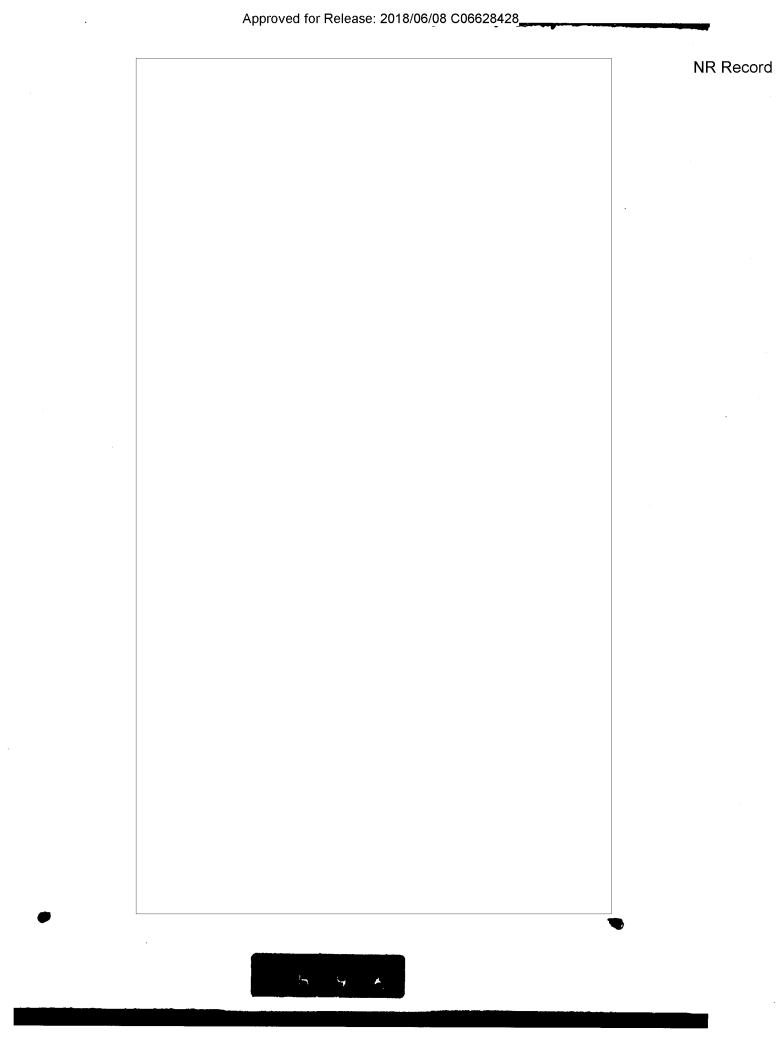
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