

NOFORN [redacted] WNINTEL

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Inquire: DOC24D
Item No: 4550

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281815Z OCT 92

CONTROLS:

S E C R E T NOFORN [redacted] WNINTEL
281815Z CIA 670293

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//INR/DSITA, DIA WASHINGTON DC,
TREASURY DEPT, SECRET SERVICE//FOR ID,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM, USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB,
CDR JSOC FT BRAGG NC.

SERIAL: [redacted]

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BODY:

PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN-- [redacted]

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DIST: 28 OCTOBER 1992

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

SUBJ: [redacted] VIEWS OF DETERIORATING
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSE CASES; REACTIONS TO AWARDED OF NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE TO INDIGENOUS ACTIVIST RIGOBERTA MENCHU

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SOURCE: [redacted]

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TEXT: 1. [redacted]

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[redacted] THE DETERIORATING
STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE UNITED STATES.

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[redacted] ATTRIBUTED THE WORSENING OF RELATIONS TO THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE
GUATEMALAN ARMY OR SECURITY SERVICES. [redacted] RELATIONS REACHED
THEIR LOWEST POINT IN RECENT YEARS AFTER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ISSUED A
TOURIST VISA TO SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVIST MARITZA
((URRUTIA)) GARCIA ON 5 AUGUST. (FIELD COMMENT: URRUTIA WAS
KIDNAPPED ON 23 JULY IN GUATEMALA CITY AND RELEASED SHORTLY

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THEREAFTER BY AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ARMED INDIVIDUALS. WHILE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES URRUTIA AS A GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZER AND ACTIVIST AND DISAVOWS ANY KNOWLEDGE OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER KIDNAPPING, URRUTIA CLAIMS SHE WAS ABDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES.)

2. [redacted] THAT A GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNION POLITICAL LEADER IN MEXICO, DR. LUIS FELIPE ((BECKER)) GUZMAN, WAS INTERESTED IN APPLYING OR MAY HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR A U.S. VISA. ACCORDING TO [redacted] BECKER SUPPORTS TERRORISM, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD CLEARLY BE HARBORING A TERRORIST IF HE WERE ISSUED A VISA AND PERMITTED TO ENTER THE U.S. REGARDING ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, SOME SENIOR GUATEMALAN ARMY OFFICERS BELIEVE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE FAMILY OF MURDERED GUATEMALAN ANTHROPOLOGIST MYRNA ((MACK)) CHANG TO IMPLICATE OR IDENTIFY GUATEMALAN OFFICERS AS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER SEPTEMBER 1990 MURDER.

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[redacted] THAT THE MACK TRIAL WAS A WITCH HUNT AND THAT SECURITY FORCES NEITHER PLANNED NOR ORDERED THE ANTHROPOLOGIST'S MURDER.

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3. [redacted] THAT SENIOR OFFICERS ARE FREQUENTLY ANGERED BY THE PERCEIVED ATTITUDE OF U.S. OFFICIALS THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE ALWAYS GUILTY OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES EVEN BEFORE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEGUN. GUATEMALAN MILITARY OFFICERS VIEW AS LEFTIST PROPAGANDA MOST OF THE ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH COME FROM PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH POLITICAL FRONT GROUPS FOR GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS. THE OFFICERS CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS AT FACE VALUE SUCH CHARGES WHEN THE U.S. HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMBATED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AND PERSEVERED TO WIN THE COLD WAR. SENIOR OFFICERS ARE ANGRY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DENY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THEY ALSO NOTE A GENERAL TREND THAT NONMILITARY U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS ERODING AND FORESEE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO ACCEPT ANY FUTURE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRESSURE TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

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CONTRARY TO MENCHU'S POPULAR IMAGE ABROAD, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE WITHIN GUATEMALA THAT MENCHU'S FAMILY WAS NOT MARTYRED FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS GUATEMALANS. FOR EXAMPLE, MENCHU'S FATHER, VICENTE ((MENCHU)), WAS KILLED WHILE CARRYING OUT A TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA CITY IN THE LATE 1970'S.

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[redacted] CHARACTERIZED MENCHU AS
 A SOMEWHAT DIM-WITTED PAWN OR DUPE OF OTHER, UNNAMED LEFTIST
 ACTIVISTS HAVING CONSIDERABLY MORE POLITICAL SAVVY. [redacted] NEWS
 THAT MENCHU HAD WON THE AWARD CAUSED [redacted]
 TO QUESTION THE MORAL CORRECTNESS OF THEIR YEARS-LONG STRUGGLE
 AGAINST THE COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED INSURGENCY IN GUATEMALA. IT SEEMED
 INCOMPREHENSIBLE [redacted] THAT INTERNATIONAL HONOR AND PRESTIGE COULD
 BE GIVEN TO A GUERRILLA OR INSURGENT SYMPATHIZER AND ACTIVIST.

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6. ACCORDING TO [redacted] THERE IS A GREAT
 DEAL OF DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE HIGH
 COMMAND, OVER THE DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND
 GUATEMALA. MOST SENIOR OFFICERS BELIEVE BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE AT
 THEIR LOWEST POINT IN 10 YEARS. THERE IS A PERCEPTION THAT THE U.S.
 IS UNJUSTLY CRITICIZING THE ARMED FORCES AND THAT THERE IS NO
 INCENTIVE FOR THE MILITARY TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION,
 THERE IS DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF A PERCEPTION
 THAT, WHILE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM HAS IMPROVED, THE ARMY IS UNDER
 GREATER ATTACK THAN BEFORE. THE ARMY CONTINUES TO BE CRITICIZED BY
 INTERNATIONAL GROUPS, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS
 AND POLITICIANS. THERE IS A GENERAL BELIEF THAT VARIOUS SECTORS OF
 GUATEMALAN SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL GROUPS ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE
 ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION. THERE ALSO ARE GROWING COMPLAINTS AMONG
 JUNIOR OFFICERS REGARDING THEIR LOW SALARIES IN COMPARISON TO THOSE
 OF GUATEMALAN CONGRESSMEN. MILITARY OFFICERS BELIEVE THIS IS
 UNJUSTIFIED GIVEN THAT THEY SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES ON A REGULAR BASIS
 WHILE CONGRESS IS CONCERNED WITH PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN. ACCORDING
 TO [redacted] THIS IS LEADING TO GROWING DISCONTENT WITH THE
 DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN THE MILITARY OFFICER CORPS. (FIELD
 COMMENT: THE MEDIAN SALARY OF OFFICERS IS 1,800 QUETZALES PER MONTH,
 OR APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$360 AT THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE OF U.S. \$1
 EQUALS ABOUT 5 QUETZALES. GUATEMALAN CONGRESSMEN EARN 17,000-18,000
 QUETZALES PER MONTH, OR APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$3,400-\$3,600 AT THE
 CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE.)

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