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ACTION ARA-16

UNCLASSIFIED (X24)

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 H-01
IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06 L-03 PM-09
PA-01 MCT-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /090 W
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R 302035Z APR 82
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8891
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA/DB-3E/JSI-4B//

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/TPS/CR/IR *FA* Date: 1/20/98
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations _____
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to
PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec. _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 GUATEMALA 3123

E.O. 12065 GDS 4-29-88 (GRAHAM, RICHARD C.) OR-P
TAGS PINS, PTER, MOPS, SHUM, GT
SUBJECT (U) GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES INCREASE

REF: A. GUATEMALA 2882, B. GUATEMALA 2976

1. (C) SUMMARY: LOCAL MEDIA DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 23-28
REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL VIOLENCE AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE
(SPECIFIC EVENTS OUTLINE IN PARA 2). SALVADORAN GUERRILLA
RADION STATION VENCEREMOS ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF ITS
GUATEMALAN COUNTERPART, WHILE THE EGP ISSUED ANOTHER REPORT
ON ITS VIOLENT ACTIONS. DATT VISITED A RALLY OF THE
DIVILIAN DEFENSE FORCES IN QUICHE'S IXIL TRIANGLE, AND
OBSERVED 6,000 CAMPESINOS - MOSTLY WITH MACHETES. THEY
HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE CASUALTIES, BUT IN SPITE OF IT ALL ARE
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ALSO MANAGING TO INFLICT THEM. THE ARMY IS TAKING FROM
THEM THE WEAPONS THEY CAPTURE, BUT AT LEAST TWO MILITIAMEN
WERE CARRYING AR-15'S/M-16'S ANYWAY. SOME 17,000

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.CAMPELINOS COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "ORGANIZED", AND UP TO 30,000 ARE ESTIMATED TO BE INTERESTED. GUERRILLAS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS HAVE TURNED THEMSELVES IN, AND ONE OF THEM WAS THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF THE RALLY. POLITICAL KILLINGS, OF THE TYPE FORMERLY ATTRIBUTED TO EXTREME RIGHT, HAVE DROPPED OFF DRAMATICALLY. GUERRILLA ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED AND TO HAVE ENETERED A NEW PHASE IN WHICH PROPAGANDA PLAYS A HEAVIER ROLE. GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS TOLD AFP IN COSTS RICA THAT THE ARMY WAS ABOUT TO START MASSACRING CAMPELINOS IN HUEHUETENANGO, AND THAT SOLDIERS WOULD BE DISGUISED AS CAMPELINOS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN HUEHUETENANGO PICKED UP; BUT ONE LOOKS AT THE TYPE OF VIOLENCE INVOLVED - POWE LINES DOWN, POLICEMENT KILLED, GASOLINE STATES BURNED - AND SEES GUERRILLA FINGERPRINTS EVERYWHERE. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE AFP ARTICLA WAS RELEASED, A VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN LEFTIST LABOR GROUP ANNOUNCED THAT THE ARMY WAS REPRESSING CAMPELINOS. ALSO, A RECENT CAMPELINO DENOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY COMMISSIONERS IN EL QUICHE WAS ITSELF DENOUNCED AS A GURRILLA PLOT BY A GIFFERENT GROUP OF CAMPELINOS. ONE STRONGLY SUSPECTS THAT THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEGUN A PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER THE EFFECTS OF THE JUNTA'S POSITIVE ACTIONS AND PUBLICITY. THE LUCAS ADMINISTRATION TOOK CARE OF PRODUCING ITS OWN BAD PRESS. THE GUERRILLAS ARE NOW IN A POSITION OF NEEDING A PROPAGANDA APPARATUS TO COUNTER THE POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS EMANATING FROM THE JUNTA, AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN

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THIS TASK. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL VIOLENCE AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THEIR PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCASTS DURING THE PERIOD OF APRIL 23-28. ALSO OF INTEREST WAS AN APRIL 25 BROADCAST BY SALVADORAN GUERRILLA RADIO VENCEREMOS IN WHICH IT WAS NNOUNCED THAT A CLANDESTINE GUATEMALAN RADIO STATION HAD BEEN SET UP (FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PA26201). THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) ISSUED ANOTHER REPORT TO THE PRESS ON ITS ACTIONS, THIS ONE FOR THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 10 TO APRIL 20, CLAIMING: "23 HARRASMENTS, 2 LIQUIDATION ATTACKS, 9 SABOTAGE ACTIONS, 5 TOWN AND VILLAGE

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.TAKEOVERS, 5 REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA ACTONS, 166 GOG SOLDIERS KILLED AND 9 WOUNDED, AND 1 HELICOPTER DAMAGED". SPECIFIC ACTIONS OF VIOLENCE REPORTED DURING THE APRIL 23-28 PERIOD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING (BY DEPARMENT):

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- HUEHUETENANGO: TWO POLICEMENT WERE KILLED BY THE EGP, AND AN AGRICULTURAL GOODS DISTRIBUTORSHIP AND A GAS STATION WERE BURNED IN THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL A POLICEMEN WAS KILL IN BUENOS AIRES; MUCH OF THE TOWN OF AMELCO WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND; POWER LINES WERE DESTROYED IN SAN JUAN ATITLAND AND SAN SEBASTIAN; A BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED AT CHIANTLA AND A GUERRILLA/ARMY CLASH FOLLOWED: 3 BUSES AND A TRUCK WERE BURNED ON THE HIGHWAYS; A GOG TRUCK DEPOT WAS BURNED NEAR XEMAL, COLOGENANGO.
- QUICHE: 12 CAMPESINOS WERERE KILLED BY A CLAYMORE MINE WHILE PASSING IN A TRUCK NEAR NAMAJ, SANTA ROSA CHUJUYUB; 7 "POWERFUL" BOMBS EXPLODED WITHIN A 2-HOUR PERIOD IN DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL SANTA CRUZ DEL QUICHE; A CIVIL PATROL WAS AMBUSHED IN IXIL TRIANGLE, TWO GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED; GUERRILLAS ATTACKED A CIVIL PATROL COMMAND CENTER AND WERE REPELLED.
- ESCUINTLA: GUERRILLAS KILLED FORMER MAYOR, BURNED

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CAFETERIA THAT HAD BEEN PROVIDING FOOD TO VISITNG SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL, SAN VICENTE PACAYA; EGP OCCUPIED AND HELD A PROPAGANDA MEETING IN VILLAGE LA FLORIDA ACEITUNO; FARMER WAS AMBUSHED AND KILLED WHILE DRIVING HIS LANDROVER.

- ALTA VERAPAZ: POWER POLES AND AN ELECTRICAL

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	H-01
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	PA-01	MCT-02	ICAE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/090 W	
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R 302035Z APR 82
 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8892
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 AMEMBASSY BELIZE
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO 6
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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PLANT WERE SABOTAGED; GUERRILLAS OCCUPIED TOWN OF SENIQUECHE, BURNING BUILDINGS; 3 FARMS OCCUPIED (SIX IN THE LAST WEEK) NEAR SAN PEDRO CARCHAM

- BAJA VERAPAZ: TWO MILITARY COMMISSIONERS DECAPITATED.

- CHIMALTENANGO: 20 CAMPESINOS KILLED, TWO OF WHOM WERE BURNED, BY FIFTY UNKNOWNNS IN PATZUN.

- PETEN: 30 UNIDENTIFIED MEN IN OLIVE GREEN CLOTHING KILLED TWELVE MEMBERS OF TWO FAMILIES IN MACANCHE, NEAR FLORES.

- SAN MARCOS: APPROXIMATELY 100

GUERRILLAS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) OCCUPIED FARM IN EL-TUMBADOR AND HELD PROPAGANDA MEETING.

- QUEZALTENANGO: ORPA BURNED POLICE STATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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COLOMBA, COSTA CUCA.

- SACATEPEQUEZ: AUXILIARY MAYOR KILLED BY UNKNOWNNS, SAN MIGUEL DUENAS.

- RETALHULEU: POLICE STATION ATTACKED, LAS PALMAS, LEAVING ONE POLICEMAN DEAD.

- SANTA ROSA: COMPLAINTS OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY NEAR CUILAPA HAVE LED TO EXTENSIVE PATROLS.

- GUATEMALA CITY: AUTO DEALERSHIP BURNED; CIVIL MILITIAMAN FROM QUICHE KILLED IN BUS TERMINAL; TWO GASOLINE STATIONS BURNED.

3. (C) THE ORGANIZING OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE GROUPS CONTINUES IN THE IXIL TRIANGLE REGION OF QUICHE DEPARTMENT. DATT VISITED THE AREA RECENTLY AND REPORTED ON A RALLY HELD BY SOME 6,000 MILITIAMEN (REF DAO SEPTEL). DATT SAW FEW FIREARMS AMONG THE CAMPESINOS, AND THOSE HE SAW TENDED TO BE ANTIQUATED. MOST CARRIED MACHETSS. MODERN WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM THE GUERRILLAS WERE BEING TURNED OVER TO THE ARMY, BUT AT LEAST TWO CAPTURED AR-15'S/M-16'S HAVE BEEN SEEN IN THE HANDS OF A MILITIAMEN. IT WAS REPORTED THAT IN ONE AREA CAMPESINOS HAD GONE SO FAR AS TO FASHION SPEARS TO GAVE THEM AT LEAST SOME KIND OF STAND-OFF CAPABILITY. DATT WAS TOLD THAT 17,000 CAMPESINOS IN THE AREA HAD BEEN "ORGANIZED", THAT IS, HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO UNITS AND

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HAD RECEIVED SOME VERY BASIC TRAINING. OF THESE 17,000, DATT WAS TOLD THAT 15 PERCENT CARRIED FIREARMS. THE 30,000 PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY THE PRESS (AND BY EMBASSY REFTEL A) IS AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF CAMPESINOS INTERESTED IN THE FORCE. AS ANTICIPATED, LIFE HAS NOT BEEN EASY FOR THE MILITIAMEN. DATT WAS TOLD THAT 34 OF THE CAMPESINOS HAD JUST BEEN KILLED BY GUERRILLAS DURING A CLASH, BUT THAT IN SPITE OF IT ALL,

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SOME OF THE MACHETE-SLINGERS HAD INFLICTED CASUALTIES AND HAD CAPTURE ONE M-16. DATT ALSO CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT GUERRILLAS AND THEIR COLLABORATORS HAD BEEN TURNING THEMSELVES IN. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT 125 COLLABORATORS HAD RECENTLY CHANGED SIDES, AND SOME WERE REPORTEDLY PRESENT AT THE RALLY VISITED BY DATT. IN FACT, THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF THE RALLY WAS A FORMER COLLABORATOR.

4. (C) COMMENT: "THE REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA IS HAVING A POSITIVE REACTION ON THE (AILING) TOURIST INDUSTRY, AND ONE SEES MORE CONFIDENCE AMONG TRAVELLERS THINKING OF COMING TO THIS COUNTRY," STATED PAN AM GENERAL MANAGER TO LOCAL DAILY PRENSA LIBRE. HE ALSO PARADOXICALLY NOTED THAT THE COMPANY WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE ITS STAFF BY 20 TO 25 PERCENT. ON THE ONE SIDE, THERE IS AN EVIDENT SENSE OF RELIEF AMONG GUATEMALANS NOW THAT VARIOUS GROUPS OF THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN DISBANDED. THE GUERRILLAS HAVE REACTED, HOWEVER, BY STEPPING UP THEIR VIOLENCE AND PROPAGANDA ACTIONS. FROM APRIL 24 THROUG 28, VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS REPORTED PARA 2, APPEARS TO HAVE FLARED UP AGAIN. INTERESTINGLY, FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PA252116 REPORTS AN AFP ARTICLE DATELINED SAN JOSE 23 APR IN WHICH THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNITY (URNG) CLAIMED THAT THE GUATEMALAN ARMY WAS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A "MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POPULACE OF HUEHUETENANGO," AND THAT THE SOLDIERS WOULD BE 'DISGUISED AS PEASANT MILITIAMEN.' AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, A VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN LEFTIST TRADE UNION, THE FEDERATION OF GUATEMALAN WORKERS (FTG) ISSUED A STATEMENT DENOUNCING THE "REPRESSION" OF CAMPESINOS BY THE ARMY. CONVENIENTLY, THE LEVEL

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.OF VIOLENCE ROSE ABRUPTLY IN HUEHUETENANGO. EVEN
IF THE GURRILLAS COULD BE CREDITED WITH THE
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INTELLIGENCE CAPACITY OF KNOWING ABOUT SUCH AN
UPCOMING CAMPAIGN, REPORTING TO A FRENCH NEWS
AGENCY IN COSTA RICA JUST BEFORE A SPREE OF KILLING
BEGINS IS EXTREMELY COINCIDENTAL. ANOTHER ITEM IN
THE NEWS LENDS ITSELF TO THE THOUGHT THAT THE
GUERRILLAS MAY BE MOUNTING A SOPHISTICATED PROPRAGANDA
OPERATION: EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL B THAT CAMPESINOS
HAD DENOUNCED THE ACTIONS OF 164 MILITARY COMMISSIONERS
IN EL QUICHE, BUT PRENSA LIBRE PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE
APRIL 28 STATING THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM
305 CAMPESINOS FROM THE AREA WHO CLAIMED THAT THE
WHOLE AFFAIR WAS A SET-UP BY MEMBERS OF THE RADICAL
CAMPESINO GROUP CUC AND OF THE "CATECHIST DENOMINATION"
OF GUERRILLAS PRIEST MCKENNA. CLEARLY, THERE IS A
PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN EMANATING FROM
SOME PART. THE RECENT OPENING OF A CLANDESTINE
GUERRILLAS RADION STATION AND THE TYPE OF VIOLENCE THAT
HAS INCREASED (SEE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE FOR
HUEHUETENANGO, PARA 2) POINT STRONGLY TOWARDS THE
GUERRILLAS.

5. (C) THE GUERRILLAS ARE IN A POSITION OF NEEDING
AN IMPROVED PROPAGANDA APPARATUS. UNDER THE
LUCAS ADMINISTRATION, THE GOG'S IMAGE SUFFERED BOTH
INTERNALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE JUNTA, HOWEVER,
HAS PROMISED TO ELIMINATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND TO
ERRADICATE CORRUPTION. IT HAS ANNOUNCED A PACIFICATION
CAMPAIGN BASED ON THE "TWO F'S, FUSILES AND FRIJOLES
(RIFLES AND BEANS." IT HAS ANNOUNCED INSTRUCTIONS
TO THE SECURITY FORCES TO "PROTECT CAMPESINOS, NOT
REPRESS THEM." IT HAS ARRANGED MASS DEMONSTRATIONS
OF CIVILIAN MILITIAMEN IN THE WAR-TORN "IXIL
TRIANGLE" OF QUICHE, AND PROVIDES FOOD AND MEDICAL
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ATTENTION TO QUICHE REFUGEES (REFTEL A). THE JUNTA
HAS CLEARLY EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO WIN THE HEARTS

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AND MINDS OF THE CAMPESINOS, AND PROBABLY TO IMPROVE
THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. ONE CAN
EXPECT THE GUERRILLAS TO MOUNT A COUNTERCAMPAIGN
FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSUMPTION, AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY
ARE ALREADY DOING SO. END COMMENT.
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