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FOR ARA/CEN:C.JOHNSTONE FROM CHARGE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: GT, PINR, SHUM, PINT
SUBJECT: ALLEGED MASSACRE OF 200 AT VILLAGE OF DOS R'S,
- PETEN

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCE RELAYED SECOND- AND
THIRD-HAND INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE GOG ARMY MASSACRE OF
200 VILLAGERS OF LOS DOS R'S, PETEN DEPARTMENT, SUPPOSED
TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE DECEMBER 12. EMBASSY OFFICER WILL
INVESTIGATE ON THE SCENE ON DECEMBER 30. END SUMMARY.

3. LOS DOS R'S IS A VILLAGE OF 200 PEOPLE LOCATED
APPROXIMATELY 12 KILOMETERS FROM THE TOWN OF LAS CRUCES IN
THE PETEN DEPARTMENT. IT IS A BRAND NEW VILLAGE,
ESTABLISHED NO MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO. ITS VILLAGERS
ARE HOMESTEADERS BUYING THEIR FARMLAND FROM THE GOVERNMENT
AGENCY FYDEP.

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, PEOPLE IN LAS CRUCES TOLD HIM
THAT ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 12, AN ARMY UNIT DISGUISED
AS GUERRILLAS ENTERED LOS DOS R'S. THEY GATHERED THE
VILLAGERS TOGETHER, TOLD THEM THEY WERE GUERRILLAS, AND
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DEMANDED FOOD. THEY WARNED THE VILLAGERS THAT THEY HAD
BETTER SUPPORT THE INSURGENCY OR THERE WOULD BE REPRISALS.
THEY SINGLED OUT ONE MAN AND ASKED HIM WHOM HE SUPPORTED.

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HE SAID, THE ARMY; THEY THEN BEAT HIM; THEY ASKED HIM THE SAME QUESTION; HE GAVE THEM THE SAME ANSWER; THEY BEAT HIM AGAIN, AND FINALLY LET HIM GO. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ESCAPED AND RECOUNTED THIS STORY. HOW HE KNEW THAT THE ARMED MEN WERE ARMY DISGUISED AS GUERRILLAS IS NOT CLEAR, SAID THE SOURCE. NOR IS IT CLEAR WHAT HAPPENED IN THE VILLAGE THEREAFTER.

5. WITNESSES, WHO TOLD OTHERS WHO TOLD SOURCE, SAY THE VILLAGE NOW IS COMPLETELY DESERTED. THEY CLAIM TO HAVE FOUND BURNT CEDULAS (ID CARDS) IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. THE HOUSES ARE EMPTY. THEY CLAIM THE ARMY CAME IN AGAIN AFTER DECEMBER 12 AND TOOK ROOFING AND FURNITURE TO THE ARMY BASE AT LAS CRUCES. NO ONE, HOWEVER, HAS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN ANY BODIES.

6. SOURCE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN THREE THEORIES, ALL RUMORS, CONCERNING THE INCIDENT IN DOS R'S: (1) THE ARMY ARRESTED ALL THE INHABITANTS AND TOOK THEM INTO THE JUNGLE; (2) THE ARMY TOOK THE MEN TO THE ARMY BASE IN POPTUN AND THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO THE ARMY BASE IN SAN BENITO; (3) THE ARMY KILLED EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE, DUMPED THEM INTO THE WELL, AND COVERED THE WELL OVER. THE LAST RUMOR IS BASED ON THE WORD OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE INTO THE VILLAGE AND SEEN THAT THE WELL IS COVERED OVER. THEY HAVE BEEN AFRAID TO LOOK INTO IT. THOUGH NO BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND, ALL THE PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED.

7. SOURCE RECOUNTED THAT THE LOCAL MILITARY COMMISSIONER SAID THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAS CRUCES AREA WAS SAD BECAUSE IT AFFECTED CHILDREN; HE THOUGHT THE AREA HAD BEEN

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CLEANED OUT. SOURCE SAID RUMORS HAVE IT THAT THE ARMY HAS BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF THE PEOPLE OF DOS R'S EVER SINCE GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE ARMY AT PALESTINA, SOME SIX MONTHS AGO. IT SEEMS THE GUERRILLAS CUT THROUGH DOS R'S EN ROUTE TO MAKING THEIR ATTACK. THE VILLAGERS, FEARING THEY MIGHT BE LABELED GUERRILLA SUPPORTERS, ASKED THE ARMY TO CHECK THEM OUT; THE ARMY DID SO, AND THE VILLAGERS THEN THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN CLEARED OF SUSPICION.

8. BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ALLEGATION THAT THE ARMY MASSACRED 200 PEOPLE, AND BECAUSE OF THE RELIABILITY OF THIS SOURCE'S INFORMATION IN THE PAST, EMBASSY OFFICER WILL FLY TO THE AREA ON DECEMBER 30 TO INVESTIGATE.

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