72
ACTION ARA-17
INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09
       H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01
       SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /115 W

192250 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECESTATE WASHDC 5516

MEXICO 2696

E. O. 11652 N/ A
TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF KIDNAPPING VICTIM BY LUCIO CABANAS GROUP
IN STATE OF GUERRERO

REF: SRF 8 MM 13238

1. SEVERAL MEXICO CITY DAILIES TODAY REPORTED THE FINDING OF THE
BODY OF FRANCISCO SANCHEZ LOPEZ, TECPAN DE GALEANA, GUERRERO, ONE
KILOMETER AWAY FROM THE SITE OF AN AMBUSH OF MEXICAN ARMY TROOPS
LAST SUMMER. SANCHEZ LOPEZ WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 7 WHILE DRIVING
HIS JEEP ALONG A RURAL ROAD; HIS KIDNAPPERS CLAIMED TO BELONG TO
LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS' GUERRILLA GROUP AND ASKED A RANSOM OF
TWO AND ONE- HALF MILLION PESOS, TO BE PAID WITHIN ONE MONTH. THE
FAMILY OF SANCHEZ LOPEZ FAILED TO DELIVER THE RANSOM, CLAIMING THAT
THEIR TOTAL ASSETS AMOUNTED TO NO MORE THAN 400,000 PESOS AND SOME
LAND. HIS ASSASSINS KILLED HIM WITH SEVERAL SHOTS FROM AN M-1
RIFLE; THEY LEFT A NOTE NAILED TO A NEARBY TREE STATING THAT THE
EXECUTION BRIGADE OF THE PARTY OF THE POOR HAD EXECUTED HIM
BECAUSE THE REQUESTED RANSOM HAD NOT BEEN PAID AND THAT THE DUTY
OF EVERY REVOLUTIONARY IS TO MAKE REVOLUTION BY FORCE OF ARMS
UNTIL VICTORIOUS OR DEAD.

2. THE OFFICIAL GOM REACTION HAS BEEN MODERATE THUS FAR. ISRAEL
NOGUEDA OTERO, THE GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO, PROMISED THAT THE
GOVERN-
MENT WOULD NOT BEGIN A WITCH- HUNT AND WOULD PUNISH ONLY THOSE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATROCITY. HE HOPED THAT THE CAMPESINOS IN THE REGION WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE SEARCH FOR THE MURDERERS. NOGUEDA CRITICIZED CABANAS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS PERPETRATED BY A BANDIT TRYING TO OBTAIN MONEY BY MEANS OF TERROR AND ASSASSINATION.

3. COMMENT: THE ASSASSINATION OF SANCHEZ LOPEZ INDICATES THAT CABANAS' GROUP IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE AND ACTIVE. THEIR MOTIVE FOR THE MURDER MAY HAVE BEEN TO CONVINCE THE FAMILIES OF FUTURE VICTIMS THAT THEY ARE SERIOUS IN DEMANDING A CERTAIN RANSOM. THE GOM WILL CONTINUE TO PORTRAY THEM AS COMMON BANDITS. HOW WELL THIS ATTEMPT WILL SUCCEED IS PROBLEMATICAL.

DEAN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification ***

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