SUBJ: THIS IS AN INFO REPORT NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRY: GUATEMALA (GT)
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: [REDACTED]
3. (U) TITLE: GUATEMALAN/US MILITARY RELATIONS
4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: [REDACTED]
5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 791004
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: [REDACTED]
7. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO
8. (U) PREPARING OFFICIAL: [REDACTED]
9. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: [REDACTED]
10. (U) SOURCE: [REDACTED]
11. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC-NO

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EX-PRESIDENT MAJOR GENERAL KJELL (LAUGERUD) EXPRESSED HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE COOLING OF US AND GUATEMALAN MILITARY RELATIONS WHICH HAS DEVELOPED TO A POINT THAT HE FINDS ALARMING.


(1) WHEN HE WAS MOD, GUATEMALA REQUESTED TO BUY 500 (FIVE HUNDRED) M-1 RIFLE BARRELS. THE REPLY WAS THAT THE US ARMY DIDN'T HAVE ANY.

(2) SHORTLY AFTER GUATEMALA HAD PURCHASED A-37B AIRCRAFT FROM THE US, ONE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND WAS DESTROYED. GUATEMALA ASKED TO BUY A REPLACEMENT AND WAS TOLD THAT THE PLANT PRODUCING THE PLANE HAD STOPPED PRODUCTION OF THE A-37B. ABOUT THREE (3) WEEKS LATER, EIGHTEEN (18) A-37B AIRCRAFT BEING FERRED TO STOPPED OVER IN GUATEMALA AND GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE
(GAF) OFFICERS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO THE FERRY PILOTS. THEY WERE TOLD THAT WHEN THE FERRY PILOTS LEFT THE PLANT A FEW DAYS EARLIER, A-37BS WERE STILL COMING OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE.

(3) GUATEMALA TRIED TO BUY M-16 RIFLES FROM THE US AND COULDN'T GET AN ANSWER UNTIL THEY FINALLY DECIDED TO BUY THE GALIL RIFLE ___ , AS SOON AS THE DEAL ___ HAD BEEN FINALIZED THE US OFFERED TO SELL GUATEMALA M-16S.

(4) GUATEMALA FINALIZED A PURCHASE OF 105MM HOWITZERS FROM ___ AND WHEN THE SHIPMENT WAS READY TO BE MADE THE ___ CANCELED THE DEAL. THEY SENT A FACTORY REPRESENTATIVE TO GUATEMALA TO EXPLAIN THAT PRESSURES FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF UK AND THE US HAD RESULTED IN ___ GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO STOP THE SHIPMENT.

(5) ___ THERE ARE MANY MORE SIMILAR SITUATIONS, SUCH AS THE ATTEMPT BY GUATEMALA TO PURCHASE C-47 AIRCRAFT FROM THE US EVEN TO THE POINT OF PAYING FOR THE PURCHASE ONLY TO HAVE THE US DELAY DELIVERY AND FINALLY CANCEL THE PURCHASE. C._ ___ EXPRESS TO GENERAL LAUGERUD HIS CONCERN AND INTEREST IN RESTORING THE PREVIOUSLY GOOD COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALAN MILITARY OFFICERS.

INFORMED GENERAL LAUGERUD THAT INITIATIVES TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS COULD NOT BE A ONE-WAY EFFORT, HE AGREED AND SAID HE INTENDED TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AT THE NEXT REGULAR MONDAY LUNCH MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE HIGH COMMAND AND COMMANDERS. GENERAL LAUGERUD SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO THINK IN TERMS OF WHAT THEY CAN DO TO STIMULATE BETTER COMMUNICATIONS AND IMPROVED RELATIONS.

GENERAL LAUGERUD'S FORTHRIGHT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER THE COOLING OF US/GUATEMALAN MILITARY RELATIONS SEEMED GENUINE. REASONS GIVEN AS POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR ATTITUDE AMONG MILITARY OFFICERS, WHILE DIFFERING IN SPECIFICS, ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE SURFACED RECENTLY.