IN LATE MAY 1991, GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL
LUIS ENRIQUE (KENDOZA) GARCIA LAUNCHED A SERIES OF SEVERE VERBAL
ATTACKS AGAINST THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (D-2).

KENDOZA SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO REMOVE CURRENT D-2
DIRECTOR COLONEL CESAR AUGUSTO (KABRERA) NEJIA BECAUSE HE WAS DOING
MORE WORK FOR UNITED STATES (U.S.) INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES THAN FOR THE
GUATEMALAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. KENDOZA ALSO
SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY
SUSPECTED THAT THE D-2 HAD FALLEN "UNDER THE CONTROL" OF U.S.

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SECRET
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(SOURCE COMMENTS:

D-2 OFFICERS ARE ANGERED AND EMBARRASSED BY BOTH THE CONTENT AND TONE OF MENDOZA'S REMARKS. MORE SERIOUS, HOWEVER, IS AN APPARENT ATTEMPT BY HIM TO WEAKEN THE D-2 USING THE D-2'S RELATIONSHIPS AS A PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY HIS MOVES AGAINST IT. BECAUSE OF THE POSITIONS HE HAS HELD, HE HAS BEEN WELL-INFORMED OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS FOR MANY YEARS, AND HIS SUPPOSED OPPOSITION TO THEM IS LARGELY FOR SHOW.

THERE MAY BE OTHER MOTIVES BEHIND SOME OF THE ATTACKS ON THE D-2 AND ITS OFFICERS; SUPPORTERS OF MENDOZA HAVE FOLLOWED HIS LEAD IN ATTACKING THE D-2. FOR EXAMPLE, THE D-2 IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IN THE ARMY, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND COUP PLOTTING. NUMEROUS OFFICERS HAVE RUN AFOUL OF THE D-2 BECAUSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE ACTIVITIES, AND IT IS NATURAL THEY WOULD SEEK REVENGE. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING INTERESTS, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD LIKE TO SEE A WEEKENED D-2, AS IT IS THE ONLY CREDIBLE ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY WITH AN ANTINARCOTICS ROLE. SOME OFFICERS BELIEVE IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SUCH INTERESTS HAVE GAINED ACCESS TO MENDOZA, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

(FIELD COMMENT:

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN MAKING OUTRAGEOUS STATEMENTS THAT ARE AFFECTING MORALE AND THE MINISTER'S OWN STANDING. MOREOVER, THE MINISTER HAS FAILED TO KEEP THE PRESIDENT INFORMED OF A VARIETY OF ISSUES AND, FOR THIS REASON, HAS BEEN "DISCIPLINED" BY THE PRESIDENT.)

SECRET
MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE D-2. THESE CHANGES, TO INCLUDE MOST OF THE SENIOR D-2 POSITIONS, WERE TO BE ANNOUNCED ABOUT 31 MAY. THE CHANGES WERE REQUESTED DIRECTLY BY MENDOZA. CABRERA, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE D-2, WAS TO BE REPLACED BY MOBILE MILITARY POLICE (PMA) COMMANDER COLONEL MARCO ANTONIO (( GONZALEZ)) TARACENA.