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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 05 INF OR RC BRANCH
SUBJ: GUATEMALIAN JUNIOR OFFICER'S COMMENTS ON THE COUP - BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALIZED INTEL
1. (U) CITY: GUATEMALA (GT)
2. (U) JR WD: JUNIOR
3. (U) TITLE: A JUNIOR OFFICER'S COMMENTS ON THE COUP - BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER
4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 020325 - 020326
5. (Z) EMAIL ADDRESS: SEE FM LINE
6. (U) SEC REF:

7. (U) SOURCE:

8. (CONFIDENTIAL) SUMMARY: (ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL/NOT FOR RELEASE)

The coup of 23 March was allegedly planned by a small number of junior officers (10-20) from the air force, "Miguel Zavala" Brigade, and honor bridge, all of whom are located in the capital. Although a number (NFI) of other officers (both senior and junior) were allegedly sounding out regarding their support/intentions if such an action were undertaken, only the small planning group actually had the knowledge that the coup was imminent. As late as Sunday (21 March) planning for the coup continued and junior officers within the planning group were still discreetly sounding out their counterparts and friends (coppero) countrywide. Support within the military on 23 March was

ACTION DC-4(*) DIA(*)
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RJFT:IO(*) OIP-JPG(*) SECDEF(*) SECDEF(*) USD(P)**
ASD:PA(E*) D1-I(*) NHCC(*) RTS-28(*) RCM-28(*)
OS-1(*) SMS(*) JS-4B(*) AT(*) AT-X(*) AIS(*) DIO(*)
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  CURPOM06GP FT CLAYTON PN/1AGP/PN/
  CURPOM3NFRDE (PAK) FT CLAYTON PN/6FTI-05/
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C-O-W-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L


OUTSIDE AGITATION: FOLLOWING THE COUP, MANY MURMURS SURFACED CONCERNING THE INVOLVEMENT OF CERTAIN GROUPS/PERSONNEL IN THE COUP PLANNING. LEONEL SISIENGA, FORMER VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE HNC, WAS ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL WHO ALLEGED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP AND THAT THE JUNIOR OFFICERS WERE SIMPLY HIS INSTRUMENTS. PRIOR TO THE COUP, SISIENGA OPENED HIS HOME TO ANY OFFICER WHO WANTED TO COME AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THE STATUS QUO. HIS CONNECTION WITH THE JUNIOR OFFICER CORPS WAS ENHANCED BY HIS SON, A LT (NFC) WHO IS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY SUPPOSEDLY, LT SISIENGA IS NOT HELD IN THE HIGHEST OF ESTEEM BY MANY OF HIS PEERS, BUT HE HAS MANAGED TO INTRODUCE SEVERAL OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES TO HIS FATHER, FOLLOWING THE COUP AND THE INABILITY OF LEONEL SISIENGA OR THE HNC HIERARCHY TO WORRY ITS WAY INTO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE ELDER SISIENGA ONCE AGAIN BEGAN MEETING WITH JUNIOR OFFICERS IN HIS HOME TO LISTEN TO THEIR COMPLAINTS AND PROMISE THEM A GREATER FEELING OF DISAFFECTION, IN HOPES OF FURTHERING HIS OWN CAUSE. DESPITE SISIENGA'S APPARENT CONTINUED SUCCESS OF DRAWING COMPLAINTS FROM HIS VISITORS OVER THE STATUS QUO, THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS INVOLVED (HFT1) IS ALLEGED TO BE NOT SUFFICIENT NOR IN POSITIONS OF SUFFICIENT POWER (MILITARY COMMANDS) AT THIS TIME TO INITIATE A REPEAT ACTION OF 23 MAR

TIME FOR EVALUATION: AS IT APPEARS TO A MAJORITY OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, THE JUNTA MUST BE GIVEN TIME (...10) TO ORGANIZE ITSELF AND ANNOUNCE ITS PROGRAM FOR TURNING THE COUNTRY AROUND AND AT THE SAME TIME PREPARING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. FOR THE MOMENT MANY JUNIOR OFFICERS WERE STILL OCCUPIED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THEIR COUP AND THEREFORE NOT DWELLING ON THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE RESULTS; HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT BITTERNESS COULD REPLACE THE EUPHORIA VERY QUICKLY.

LINGERING PROBLEMS: GENERAL RIOS MONTOY IS ALSO TROUBLED BY WHAT TO DO WITH THE MANY OFFICERS WHO ARE OUT OF A JOB AND SIMPLY SITTING AT HOME.

GENERAL M.B. LUCAS WOULD PROBABLY BE SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY EVENTUALLY. ADDITIONALLY, EVEN THOUGH OTHER OFFICERS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CORRUPT PRACTICES, IT WAS UNLIKELY ANYONE WOULD BE PENALIZED. GENERAL RIOS MONTOY'S STRONG RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, COUPLED WITH HIS LONGTIME ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE OFFICER CORPS, WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM WAGING A WAR OF VENGEANCE.

PRESS CONFERENCE: GENERAL RIOS MONTOY'S FIRST TELEVISIONED PRESS CONFERENCE DID NOT PAINT A VERY FAVORABLE PICTURE OF THE MAN BUT THAT WAS MOST CERTAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FATIGUE AND PRESSURE OF THE DAY'S EVENTS. IT WOULD BE EASIER TO ACCEPT HIS RELIGIOUS AND MORAL IDIOTSYSTACIES THAN THE DISHONESTY FOUND IN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. ADDITIONALLY, GENERAL RIOS MONTOY WAS ONLY A CARICATURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED "CIVILIAN" WHO WOULD FOLLOW.

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Hq USAF WASH DC/10X3W/
MACS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB 1L/1W/
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DCMD FOR CARIBBEAN WEST FL

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