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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02696 200133 Z

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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

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE 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 GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BEGIN A WITCH- HUNT AND WOULD PUNISH ONLY THOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

INTERNAL USE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAM A. MOSKOWITZ  
DATE/CASE ID: 11 JUN 1999 199800894 LI

PAGE 02 MEXICO 02696 200133 Z

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATROCITY. HE HOPED THAT THE CAMPESINOS IN THE REGION WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE SEARCH FOR THE MURDERERS. NOGUEDA CRIDITED 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 CONVINCEN 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 \*\*\* [REDACTED]

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* [REDACTED]

