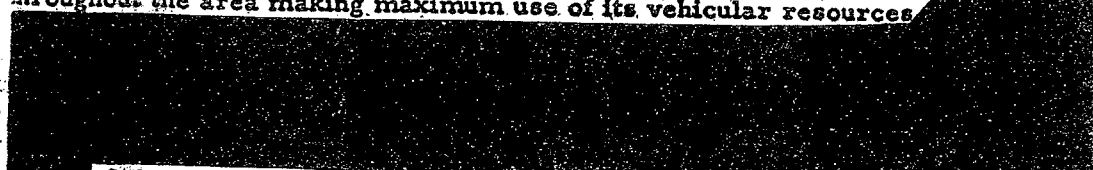




(Classification and Control)

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border with Mexico and security operations in the Departments of Quezaltenango and Retalhuleu. He stated that the organization of a provisional Battalion in this area remains in the planning stage however the results of the August 1970 operations along the Mexican border ( ) has gone far to convince Minister of Defense Col VASSAUX, that the Army presence is essential. Col Chupina stated that a reinforced company from the Guatemala City based Guardia de Honor is being recalled after six weeks of participation in the August operation. However Quezaltenango Base has been directed to continue patrol action throughout the area making maximum use of its vehicular resources



Col Chupina also advised that the Air Force has been alerted to provide support in the event determined resistance is encountered. When questioned concerning his equipment for ground to air communication the colonel became vague ( ) that the "troops" have a ground to air capability and that the experience gained in heli-lift operations during August has given all unit leaders a much better appreciation for the tactical and logistical elements essential to insure the success of this type operation.

3. **ORDER OF BATTLE:** ( )

( ) the major portion of the assigned vehicles were on patrol duty and that the motor pool housed only those assigned to the base alert unit which were to be used in the 15 September National Day parade. (Eight 2 1/2 ton trucks with trailers, two 3/4 ton and six 1/4 ton trucks and trailers accompanied the three hundred man parade contingent) The personnel strength of the base is reported to be 850 men.

4. **CIVIC ACTION:** ( )

( ) his patrols were encountering difficulty in winning the confidence of the campesino. He partially blamed this upon the traditional distrust in the minds of the country peon of anything that represents "government" or "outside control". However he stated his belief that the Guatemalan government is largely at fault for not directing its attention to cutting the bonds of ignorance and poverty that now exist

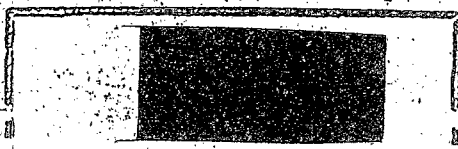
( ) He indicated that his thoughts are shared by the present government but how far the resources available to the President may be divided is a question that has not been determined.

5. **PRESTIGE AMONG POPULACE:** ( )

Colonel Lucas spoke at length about President Arana's being in Quezaltenango on 12 September to give the speech which officially opened the week long Central American Independence ceremonies. President Arana is the first president to have made such an appearance which even more impressed Colonel Lucas, as President Arana was not a popular candidate in the area. Following his speech he stayed to open the gala ball in honor of the beauty queens from all the Central American countries by dancing with each of them in turn. Colonel Lucas stated that the president made more friends in the area during his twelve hour stay than any other president in history.



Colonel Lucas' assignment to Quezaltenango was the personal choice of MOD

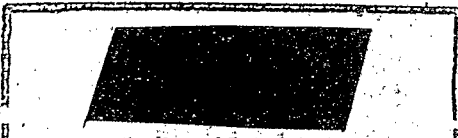


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Colonel Vassaux who has great faith and trust in Lucas' ability. Since his arrival in Quezaltenango on 3 August 1970 Colonel Lucas has spent seventy-five percent of his time in the field directing his troops. (In so doing he has established an all-time record) He readily admits that the area of operations is new to him but is steadfastly determined to comply with his directive to rid the area of contraband operations and deny the use of the border to the bands of organized criminals who traditionally have recognized the law only as written by themselves.

2. The appearance of the Military Base reflects the personality of its new commander. Troops present a neat appearance, equipment is clean and neatly displayed, vehicles are clean and show signs of use rather than being clean and kept on blocks in the motor pool. Maintenance logs are being used and the maintenance officer takes great pride in the number of vehicles on the road. Troop kitchens were clean and a refrigeration plant is now employed to store meats and perishable foods. Training schedules are up to date and posted on unit bulletin boards - in sum, if it is true that busy troops are happy troops the Quezaltenango garrison should be delirious and the Mexican border area should become an area of tranquility and reason.

3. Army Vice Chief of Staff, Colonel PALOMO advised [redacted] September 1970 that reinforced Company from Guatemala City based Mariscal Zavala Brigade will replace the Company from the Guardia de Honor on 30 September 1970.



*[Handwritten signature]*