CONFIDENTIAL

INQUIRE=DOC25D
ITEM NO=00090354
ENVELOPE
CDSN = LGX226  MCN = 940242/22116  TOR = 940241831
DTTCZYUV RUEKJCS0576 0241835---RUEALGX.
ZNY ---
HEADER
O 241835Z JAN 94
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CNC WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//
RUETIAQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUCBSSA/CINCSACOM NORFOLK VA///J2//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSP DC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFZAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC///J2//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSP QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEAIIA/CA WASHINGTON DC
RULKGAN/MARCINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RULSJGI/CGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUEALGX/SAFE
O 241832Z JAN 94

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//ARA-MEX/INM-FOR GELBARD// IMMEDIATE
RUEAHQA/OSAF WASHDC//IAL// IMMEDIATE
RUEHST/AMBASSADE GUATEMALA//USDAO GUATEMALA CITY//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSP QUARRY HTS PM//SCJ2// IMMEDIATE
RHCSSRB/CINCFORSCOM FT MCPHERSON KS///FCJ2/AFIN-IC// IMMEDIATE
RUCBCLF/CINCSACOM NORFOLK VA///J2//IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHSN/AMBASSADE SAN SALVADOR
RUEHTG/AMBASSADE TEGUCIGALPA
RUEHSJ/AMBASSADE SAN JOSE
RUEHML/AMBASSADE MANAGUA
BT

CONTROLS
CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 03

NOFORM

SERIAL: (U) IIR

********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE **********

BODY
COUNTRY: (U) MEXICO (MX).

SUBJECT: IIR ********** MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT
BRIEFS MILITARY ATTACHES ON CHIAPAS (U).

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NOFORM
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED — CONFIDENTIAL — NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 940118.

REQS: (U) [Redacted]

SOURCE: (U) [Redacted]

SUMMARY: [Redacted] MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT OFFERS BRIEFING TO MILITARY ATTACHES CONCERNING THE CONFLICT IN CHIAPAS.

TEXT: 1. [Redacted] ON 940118 THE MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT (DEFENSA) OFFERED A BRIEFING TO ALL ASSIGNED MILITARY ATTACHES. THE BRIEFING WAS GIVEN IN THREE PARTS:
   A. A BREIFING BY COLONEL ((ARTUROS))
   B. A FOLLOW ON BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ((MARTINEZ))
   C. A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BY BRIG GEN ((DEL REAL)),

2. [Redacted] ARTUROS STARTED THE BRIEF BY SAYING THAT THE ARMY HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN CHIAPAS SINCE 830000. THEY HAVE RECORDS WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF NAMES AND LOCATIONS OF PEOPLE THAT WERE/ARE KNOWN TO HAVE CONNECTIONS TO INSURGENTS IN CHIAPAS STATE. THE CLEAR INDICATORS OF AN ATTACK BEGAN ON 931230 WHEN REBEL FORCES BEGAN A SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST MOVEMENT THAT CONCENTRATED THEIR FORCES IN AN AREA TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE TOWN OF OCOSINGGO. [Redacted] THIS FORCE INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE TZOTZIL, TZELTAL, AND TOJOLOBAL CHAMULA TRIBES. IN ADDITION TO THESE LOCALS THERE WERE CUBANS IN THE GROUP. THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS ALSO HAS BEEN CLAIMED IN NEWS REPORTING IN MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS.

3. [Redacted] ARTUROS STATED THAT WHEN THE ATTACKS CAME ON 940101, THE ARMY DID NOT RESPOND BECAUSE THEY WERE
WAITING FOR THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. ONCE THE ZAPATISTAS DID IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND MAKE A DECLARATION OF WAR THE ARMY SET UP FOUR REGIONS OF OPERATIONS:
A. REGION I - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS
B. REGION II - OCOSINGO/ALTAMIRANO
C. REGION III - COMITAN/LAS MARGARITAS
D. REGION IV - TUXTLA GUTIERREZ AND NORTHWEST

6. CONFIDENTIAL THEN MARTINEZ TOOK OVER FOR THE OPERATIONAL BRIEF. HE STARTED BY SAYING THAT THE MAIN OPERATIONS WERE IN SAN CRISTOBAL, OCOSINGO, AND LAS MARGARITAS AND THAT THE OBJECTIVE HAS SIMPLY TO RESTORE ORDER TO THOSE CITIES. ADDITIONALLY, HE STATED THAT DEFENSA COORDINATED WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES, HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS, ETC.

7. CONFIDENTIAL DEL REAL THEN TOOK QUESTIONS. WHEN ASKED WHAT HAS THE STATUS OF THE ZAPATISTAS, HE STATED THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE GUERILLAS AND THEREFORE THE PEACE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO "RECOGNIZE" THE ZAPATISTAS. WHEN ASKED IF THE CEASEFIRE DID NOT WORK THEN WHAT WOULD THE ARMY DO AND HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE, HE ANSWERED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND LONG TERM EFFORTS. THIS ANSWER ALSO LED HIM TO COMMENT ON WHAT HE SAW AS SUPPORT AND NONSUPPORT OF THE ZAPATISTAS. HE FEELS THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS A BIG SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE REBELS BUT THAT THE REGIONAL EVANGELISTS DID NOT SUPPORT THE INSURGENTS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE PERSON REFERRED TO AS COMMANDER MARCOS IS PROBABLY NOT THE HEAD PERSON BUT ONE OF FOUR DIVISION LEADERS. DEL REAL SPOKE AT LENGTH ON BEING ASKED ABOUT ALLEGED ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY GOM SOLDIERS. HIS OVERALL OPINION HAS THAT IT COULD NOT BE AVOIDED, THAT SOMEONE IN THE PRESS WOULD ALWAYS
CONSTITUTE WHAT HAPPENED AS ABUSE. HE STATED THAT IF AN INNOCENT GOT INTO THE LINE OF FIRE AND A DEATH RESULTED, THAT HAS NOT ABUSE BUT AN ACCIDENT. ALSO, HE STATED THAT ANY CADAVERS ARE LEFT IN PLACE BY THE MILITARY AND THAT CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICING UP THE DEAD. IT THIS TAKES TIME, SUCH AS OVERNIGHT, ANIMALS, EVEN STRAY DOGS, ATTACK THE BODIES. THIS IS OFTEN MISINTERPRETED AS ABUSE IN THAT THE MILITARY IS ACCUSED OF DISMEMBERING THE BODIES. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FERRET OUT SMALL POCKETS OF RESISTANCE BUT THAT TO PULL OUT OF THE AREA WOULD ONLY MEAN THAT THE AMRY WOULD HAVE TO RETAKE TOWNS THAT THEY NOW CONTROL.

COMMENTS: I. (C/NF)