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PAGE:6417

INQUIRE=DOC25D
ITEM NO=00090354

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX226 MCN = 94024/22116 TOR = 940241831
OTTZYUW RUEKJCS0576 0241835-~~cccc~~-RUEALGX.

ZNY ~~cccc~~

HEADER

O 241835Z JAN 94
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//
RUETIAQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RULSJGI/COGARD 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
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA//USDAO GUATEMALA CITY//
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM//SCJ2// IMMEDIATE
RHCGRB/CINCFORSCOM FT MCPHERSON GA//FCJ2/AFIN-IC// IMMEDIATE
RUCBCLF/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
BT

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 [REDACTED]

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SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) MEXICO (MX).

SUBJECT: IIR [REDACTED] MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT
BRIEFS MILITARY ATTACHES ON CHIAPAS (U).

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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: ~~(CONF)~~ MEXICAN DEFENSE SECRETARIAT OFFERS
BRIEFING TO MILITARY ATTACHES CONCERNING THE CONFLICT
IN CHIAPAS.

TEXT: 1. ~~(CONF)~~ ON 940118 THE MEXICAN DEFENSE
SECRETARIAT (DEFENSA) OFFERED A BRIEFING TO ALL
ASSIGNED MILITARY ATTACHES. THE BREFING WAS GIVEN IN
THREE PARTS:

A. A BREIFING BY COLONEL ((ARTUROS)) [REDACTED]

B. A FOLLOW ON BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ((MARTINEZ)) [REDACTED]

C. A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BY BRIG GEN
((DEL REAL)), [REDACTED]

2. ~~(CONF)~~ 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]

[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. ~~(CONF)~~ ARTUROS STATED THAT WHEN THE ATTACKS CAME
ON 940101, THE ARMY DID NOT RESPOND BECAUSE THEY WERE

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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 - OCOSSINGO/ALTAMIRANO
- C. REGION III - COMITAN/LAS MARGARITAS
- D. REGION IV - TUXTLA GUTIERREZ AND NORTHWEST

4. ~~(C/NF)~~ [REDACTED]

6. ~~(C/NF)~~ THEN MARTINEZ TOOK OVER FOR THE OPERATIONAL BRIEF. HE STARTED BY SAYING THAT THE MAIN OPERATIONS WERE IN SAN CRISTOBAL, OCOSSINGO, 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. [REDACTED]

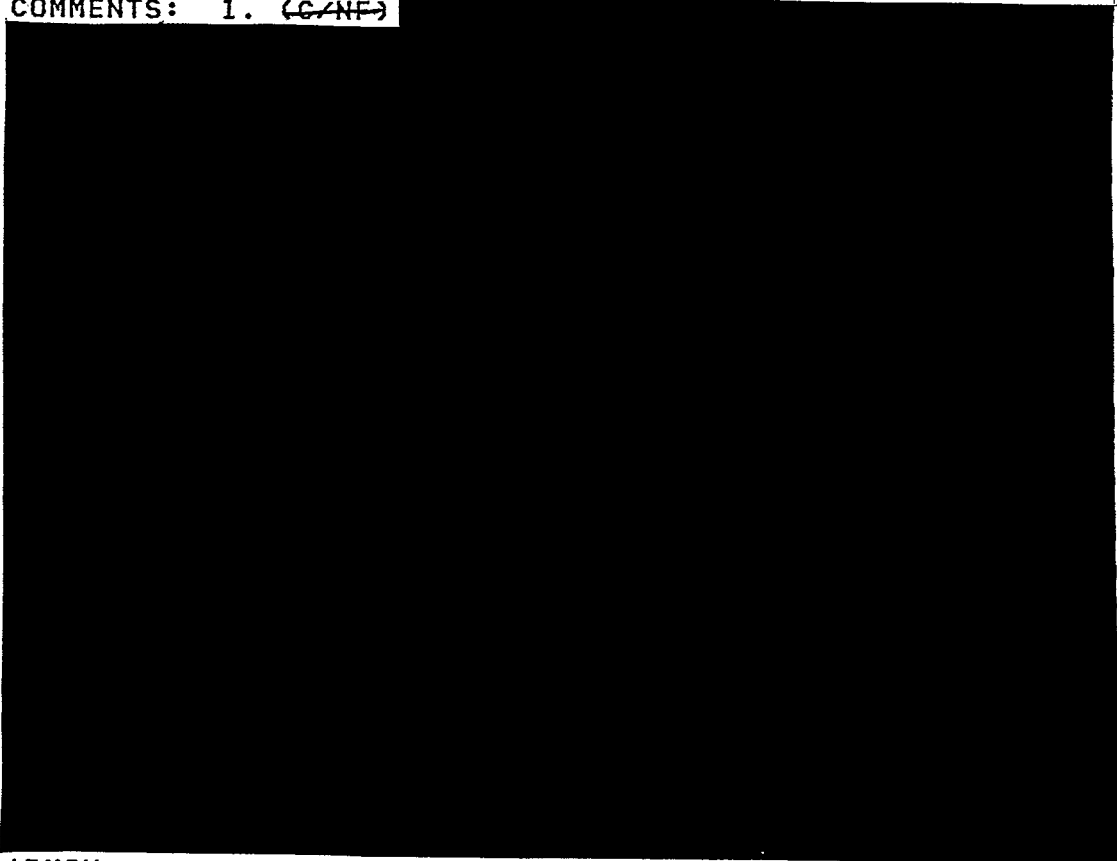
7. ~~(C/NF)~~ DEL REAL THEN TOOK QUESTIONS. WHEN ASKED WHAT HAS THE STATUS OF THE ZAPATISTAS, HE STATED THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE GUERRILLAS AND THEREFORE THE PEACE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO "RECOGNIZE" THE ZAPATISTAS. WHEN ASKED IF THE CEASEFIRE DID NOT WORK THEN WHAT 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 [REDACTED] 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

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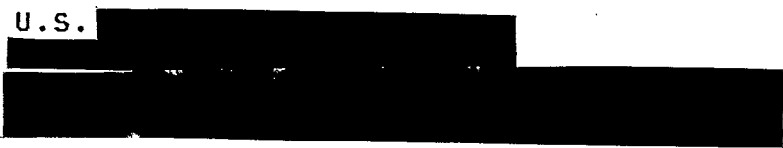
CONSTRUE WHAT HAPPENED AS ABUSE. HE STATED THAT IF AN INNOCENT GOT INTO THE LINE OF FIRE AND A DEATH RESULTED, THAT HAS NOT ABUSE BUT AN ACCIDENT. ALSO, HE STATED THAT ANY CADAVERS ARE LEFT IN PLACE BY THE MILITARY AND THAT CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICING UP THE DEAD. IT THIS TAKES 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: 1. ~~(C/NF)~~



ADMIN

PROJ: (U) .
COLL: (U) .
INSTR: (U) U.S.
PREP: (U)
ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)



DSCD, POL).

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