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COUNTRY:

(U) MEXICO (MX).

SUBJ: II

IIR MILITARY REACTION TO THE MEXICAN

GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ZAPATISTA MOVEMENT (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED

INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED S-C-C-R-E-T-NOFORN-WNTNTEL-

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI:

(U) 940329.

REQS:

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SUMMARY: (C./NOFORN) THIS REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEXICAN MILITARY'S REACTION TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ZAPATISTA MOVEMENT IN THE STATE OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO.

TEXT: 1. (C) NUFURN)

DISGRUNTLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ZAPATISTA ARMY FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (ZAPATISA MOVEMENT - EZLN) IN THE STATE OF CHIAPAS

THE GOVERNMENT HAD FAILED TO RESPOND TO EARLY INDICATIONS OF A POSSIBLE POPULAR REVOLT IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO. THEY ALSO CONTEND THAT WHILE THEY KNEW OF THE POSSIBLE REVOLT AND REPORTED THIS TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN MEXICO CITY, THE GOVERNMENT IS LAYING THE BLAME FOR THE EZLN PROBLEM ON THE MILITARY. THE INITIAL ATTACK BY EZLN-LED PEASANTS WAS SCHEDULED FOR I DECEMBER 1993, BUT WAS CHANGED TO 1 JANUARY 1994 WHEN EZLN LEADERS REALIZED THAT I DECEMBER 1994 FELL ON A HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING THE EQUIVALENT OF APRIL FOOLS DAY IN THE UNITED STATES (DIA DE LOS INOCENTES). THE EZLN LEADERS FEARED THAT IF THEY MADE THEIR INITIAL ATTACK ON I DECEMBER 1994 PEOPLE WOULD TAKE THE ACTION TO BE A PRANK THEREBY REDUCING THE INITIAL MEDIA EXPOSURE.

- HAVE FULLY RESPECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR A CEASE FIRE, THE EZLN HAS BEEN ACTIVELY RECRUITING AND ARMING ITSELF FOR FUTURE ACTION. SINCE THE INITIAL EZLN ATTACK ON I JANUARY 1994, ALL MILITARY OPERATIONAL UNITS HAD BEEN PLACED ON FULL ALERT WITH ALL PERSONNEL GARRISONED IN THEIR MILITARY QUARTERS. AFTER THE CEASE FIRE WAS ANNOUNCED IN MID-FEBRUARY 1994, MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE INSTRUCTED TO WORK EVERY OTHER DAY ON 24-HOUR SHIFTS. THIS STILL RESTRICTS PERSONNEL TO THE CLOSE VICINITY OF THEIR GARRISONS PREVENTING MANY FROM VISITING THEIR FAMILIES AND HAS CAUSED AN INCREASE IN DESERTIONS AND AWOL CASES.
- 3. -(C)/NOFORM) AFTER THE 23 MARCH 1994 ASSASSINATION OF THE PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, LUIS DONALDO ((COLOSIO)), ALL MEXICAN MILITARY OPERATIONAL UNITS WERE PLACED ON FULL ALERT STATUS FOR ONE COMPLETE WEEK. FOLLOWING THIS INITIAL WEEK, ALL UNITS WERE INSTRUCTED TO RETAIN AT LEAST A PLATOON-SIZED ELEMENT FOR EVERY COMPANY ON FULL ALERT.
- 4. CONGRESSIONS MEXICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO REFER TO THE MOVEMENT AS THE EZLN AS THIS RECOGNIZES THEIR IDENTITY AS A NATIONAL ARMY. PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REFER TO THE EZLN AS GUERRILLAS, CRIMINALS, DELINQUENTS, OR ZAPATISTAS.



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COMMENTS: (U) NONE.

ADMIN

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WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED S-E-C-R-E-T-WARNING NOTICE-THIELLIGENCE COURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED NOT RETEXABLE TO PORTENHALIONALISM

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