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RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
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RUEIQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUCQVAB/USCINCOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCOS QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2// PRIORITY
RUEHME/USDAO MEXICO PRIORITY
BT
CONTROLS
SECRET-NOFORM

SECRET-NOFORM

SERIAL: (U) IIR

FUNCTION

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

BODY
COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT); MEXICO (MX).

SUBJ: IIR ********** GUATEMALAN POSTURE ON THE
PROBLEM IN CHIAPAS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED
SECRET-NOFORM.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SECRET

NOFORM
B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "PRENSA LIBRE", GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA, 941223, (U), IN SPANISH. THE PAPER HAS AN ESTIMATED CIRCULATION OF 100,000, IS KNOWN TO BE CONSERVATIVE AND INDEPENDENT. LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY NEWSPAPER IN GT.

C. (S/NF) SUMMARY: (S/NF) GUATEMALAN ARMY PROVIDES MEXICAN ARMY INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE ARMS SHIPMENTS FOR THE EZLN. SPECIAL FORCES AND AIR FORCE TRAINERS ARE LOANED TO TRAIN MEXICAN PERSONNEL. UN REFUGEE COMMISSION INQUIRES ABOUT ESTABLISHING REFUGEE CAMPS IN GUATEMALA.

TEXT: 1. (S/NF) THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY HAS AGAIN BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY THE MEXICAN ARMY ASKING FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE CONTINUING ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (EZLN) INSURGENCY IN CHIAPAS. REPORTEDLY THE GUATEMALAN ARMY HAS SHARED WITH THE MEXICANS INFORMATION THAT INDICATES THAT MUNITIONS AND ARMS ARE ENTERING CHIAPAS VIA GUATEMALA DESTINED FOR THE EZLN.
3. (U) SOURCE 'B' CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON 23 DECEMBER IN WHICH SUB COMANDANTE MARCOS FROM THE EZLN DENOUNCED THE PRESENCE IN CHIAPAS OF GUATEMALAN KAIBLES. IN THE ARTICLE, MARCOS STATED THE EZLN WAS AWARE THAT KAIBLES REGULARLY CROSSED THE FRONTIER WITH MEXICO INTO THE LACANDONA FOREST, IN PURSUIT OF URNG INSURGENTS. SUB COMANDANTE MARCOS ALSO STATED THAT THE EZLN WAS AWARE THAT THE GUATEMALAN KAIBLES WERE PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE MEXICAN ARMY, WHICH WAS INDICATED BY THEIR PRESENCE IN CHIAPAS. THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND DIVULGATION (DIDE), THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FOR THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS BY MARCOS THAT KAIBLES ARE PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE MEXICAN ARMY.

4. (S//NF) __________________ THE UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE COMMISSION HAS RECENTLY APPROACHED THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MEXICAN REFUGEES IN GUATEMALA. THE RESPONSE OF THE GUATEMALANS WAS THAT THEY WOULD. __________________ THE GUATEMALAN ARMY IS NOW SEARCHING FOR POSSIBLE REFUGEE SITES IN ZACAPA, JALAPA, JUTIAPA, CHIQUIMULA AND PUERTO BARRIOS. REPORTEDLY, THE SITES ARE BEING LOOKED AT REQUIRE READY ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY AND WATER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AMENITIES FOR THE REFUGEES, IF THEY IN FACT DO COME INTO GUATEMALA.

5. (S//NF) __________________ IT WAS RATHER IRONIC THAT GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THE GUATEMALAN CONFLICT AND THE ABUNDANCE OF GUATEMALAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEXICO, THAT THE TABLES HAVE NOW TURNED AND MEXICAN CAMPS MAY BE ESTABLISHED IN GUATEMALA. __________________ ANY CAMPS ESTABLISHED WOULD BE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THAT, UNLIKE THE CAMPS IN MEXICO, NO OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THE EZLN TO USE THE CAMPS AS BASES IN GUATEMALA.

COMMENTS: 1. (S//NF) __________________ GIVEN THE RECENT RESURGENCE OF THE EZLN ACTIVITY IN CHIAPAS, AND THE POSSIBLE IMPACT IT CAN HAVE ON NOT ONLY THE
GUATEMALAN/URNG PEACE TALKS, BUT THE WAR IN GUATEMALA AS WELL, PARTICULAR ATTENTION WILL BE PAID TO THIS ISSUE. WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE GUATEMALANS WILL DEDICATE MAJOR RESOURCES TO KEEPING TRACK OF THE PROBLEM, AND WILL NOT HESITATE, AS HAS BEEN STATED IN RECENT NEWS ARTICLES, TO BEEF UP THEIR FORCES ALONG THE FRONTIER IF IT APPEARS THAT THE CONFLICT IN CHIAPAS WILL DRIFT OVER INTO GUATEMALA. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY AREA WHERE THEY MAY HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SWIFTLY REINFORCE THEIR FRONTIER IS IN MILITARY ZONE 22 (PLAYA GRANDE). THE FRONTIER THAT SEPARATES CHIAPAS AND MILITARY ZONE 19 (HUEHUETENANGO) IS A LARGER AREA, MORE ISOLATED AND WILL PROVE TO BE MORE DIFFICULT TO REINFORCE IF THE NEED ARISES.