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REL UK CAN AILS

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ENVELOPE
CDSN = CFS071  MCN = 95055/08076  TOR = 9505550516
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HEADER
R 245050Z FEB 95
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUEENAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDJ//
RUEITIAQ/HPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUEAIICIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUEALGIX/SAFE
R 232329Z FEB 95

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 06

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SERIAL:  (U) IIR

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

BODY
COUNTRY:  (U) MEXICO (MX).

SUBJECT:  IIR  **********CHIAPAS UPDATE EIGHT

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(8). SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SPONSORED
ATTACHE VISIT TO CHIAPAS (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT
CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL
REL UK, CAN, AUS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 950214.
REQS: (U) 

SOURCE: (U)

SUMMARY: (U) ON 950214 THE SECRETARIAT OF DEFENSE
SPONSORED AN ATTACHE VISIT TO CHIAPAS WHICH INCLUDED A
BRIEFING BY THE VII REGION COMMANDER, A BRIEFING AND
TOUR OF A HOLDING AREA FOR DISPLACED PERSONS
(REFUGEES), AND A VISIT TO THE ONCE EZLN HEADQUARTERS.

TEXT: 1. (C) REL UK, CAN, AUS) ON 950214 THE
SECRETARIAT OF MEXICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE SPONSORED A
VISIT TO CHIAPAS FOR ALL ACCREDITED ARMY AND AIR FORCE
ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO MEXICO. THE TOUR BEGAN WITH A
FLIGHT IN A TWIN ENGINE TURBO PROP CONVAIR, PURCHASED
BY THE MEXICAN AIR FORCE APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS
EARLIER.

2. (C) REL UK, CAN, AUS)

3. (C) REL UK, CAN, AUS) AFTER RECEIVING BREAKFAST,
THE ATTACHES WERE GIVEN A BRIEFING BY THE VII REGION

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COMMANDER, LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARIO RENAN ((CASTILLO)) FERNANDEZ. GEN CASTILLO IMPRESSED UPON THE VISITORS THE ACTION IN CHIAPAS IS NOT A WAR, BUT RATHER A CIVIL ACTION WHICH IS NOT FORESEEN TO DEGENERATE INTO WAR. HE FURTHER INDICATED THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE IN RESPONSE TO A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER THROUGH ACTS OF TERRORISM. HE ASSURED THE VISITORS THAT THE STATE POLITICAL LEADERS HAD NO AUTHORITY OVER THE ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA. GEN CASTILLO ALSO INDICATED THAT THE MILITARY WILL NOT PURSUE MARCOS INTO THE JUNGLE; HOWEVER, TIME WILL MAKE HIM (MARigos) DISAPPEAR.

4. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS)
6. (U) AFTER TRANSFERRING TO THE BLACK HAWKS, THE
ATTACHES WERE FLOWN TO THE ARMY GARRISON FACILITIES
FOR THE 24TH ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION AND THE
91ST SPECIAL FORCES JUNGLE INFANTRY BATTALION LOCATED
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF COMITAN. GEM MORALEZ PROVIDED A
DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE ACTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE IN PROVIDING DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE
MORE THAN 4094 CAMPESINOS DISPLACED FROM THEIR LAND BY
THE ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY AND ITS
SUPPORTERS. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE GROUPED BY
LOCALITY WITH THE MAJORITY (1,419) LOCATED IN COMITAN,
979 IN LAS MARGARITAS, 886 IN OCOSINGO, 349 IN LA
TRINITARIA, 313 IN LA INDEPENDENCIA, AND 148 IN
ALTAMIRANO.

7. (U) ACCORDING TO THE BRIEFING, BEIDES SECURING
TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR THE DISPLACED CAMPESINOS OF
CHIAPAS, THE MILITARY WAS ALSO ENSURING OTHER HEALTH
AND WELFARE SERVICES WERE BEING PROVIDED ON A PERIODIC
BASIS, TO INCLUDE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND DENTAL CARE,
FOOD DELIVERIES, HAIR CARE, AND OTHER SERVICES. THESE
SERVICES WERE ALSO BEING PROVIDED TO OTHER COMMUNITIES
OF CAMPESINOS AND POOR INDIGENOUS IN THE STATE.

8. (U) THE ATTACHES WERE TAKEN BY TRUCK TO "LAS
INSTALACIONES DE LA FERIA", A TYPICAL MEXICAN MARKET
PLACE WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO A TEMPORARY
DISPLACED PERSONS (REFUGEE) CAMP AND CARE CENTER, TO
OBSERVE FIRST HAND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD, AS WELL
AS THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER SERVICES
FOR THE DISPLACED POPULATION IN THE AREA.

9. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) THE ATTACHES WERE THEN FLOWN,
VIA BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS, TO GUADALUPE TEPEYAC--THE
RECENTLY ABANDONED HEADQUARTERS OF THE EZLN.
THROUGHOUT THIS AND THE PREVIOUS LEG OF THE JOURNEY,
THE BLACK HAWKS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO ARMED MD-530'S
WHICH PROVIDED ESCORT AND COVER FOR THE BLACK HAWKS.

10. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) GUADALUPE TEPEYAC
IS A SMALL VILLAGE
LOCATED IN A SMALL VALLEY NEARLY SURROUNDED BY STEEPLY
RISING TERRAIN, WHICH ITSELF IS COVERED BY DENSE TREES
AND SHRUBS. BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE ((MARTINEZ))
NOLASIO, WAS THE COMMANDER OF TROOPS OCCUPYING THIS
VILLAGE; HE REPLACED MG RAMON ((ARRIETA)) HURTADO,
WHOSE AIRBORNE TROOPS HAD TAKEN THE TOWN.

11. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS)
12. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) WERE THEN TAKEN BY TRUCK TO AGUASCALIENTES, THE SITE OF THE AUGUST EZLN SPONSORED NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION. THIS SITE LOCATED ONLY ABOUT ONE (1) TO TWO (2) KILOMETERS FROM GUADALUPE TEPEYAC, WAS ALSO THE SITE OF A LEFT WING REBEL LIBRARY. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE LITERATURE IN THE LIBRARY WAS ORIENTED TO MARXIST WRITINGS, POLITICAL RADICALISM, AND LEFT LEANING IDEOLOGY. ALSO NOTED WRITTEN MATERIALS ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE. THERE WAS ALSO A COMPUTER LOCATED IN THE LIBRARY AND A SECTION WITH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.

13. (C/REL, UK, CAN, AUS)

14. (C/REL, UK, CAN, AUS) THE PARTY WAS THEN FLOWN BY HELICOPTER TO VILLAHERMOSA, TABASCO WHERE MAJOR GEM ANTONIO ((FERNANDEZ)) PERIDRE, COMMANDER OF THE 30TH MILITARY ZONE, HOSTED A LUNCHEON AND OFFERED A SHORT PRESENTATION ON THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS WITHIN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE 30TH MILITARY ZONE.
COMMENTS:

1. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) THE MILITARY WAS INTENT ON PORTRAYING RECENT ACTIONS AS CONTROLLED, AND PROFESSIONAL, AND AIMED AT PRESERVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN CHIAPAS.


3. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) THE MILITARY HAS ALSO WORKED TO LEGITIMIZE THE ACTIONS IN THE REGION BY PORTRAYING THEM AS IDENTIFIED DURING THE BRIEFINGS AS MILITARY
SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION COINCIDENT WITH A FEDERAL POLICE ACTION AGAINST CRIMINALS AND TERRORISTS.

4. (C/REL UK, CAN, AUS) The military troops gave the appearance of being very professional and courteous. The fact that none of them entered the huts in Guadalupe Tepeyac or disrupted their contents, is a clear indication of their attention to detail in establishing an image as protectors of the people rather than violators of basic human rights.

5. (C/REL UK, CAN, AILS)

ADMIN
PROJ: (U) .
COLL: (U) AH
INSTR: (U) U.S. [Redacted]
PREP: (U) [Redacted]
ENCL: (U) TO FOLLOW: 2 ENCLOSES.
1. PHOTOGRAPHY, CHIAPAS, MEXICO (U), PARTIAL ROLL, COLOR NEGATIVES, 28 FRAMES (U).
2. PHOTOGRAPHY, CHIAPAS, MEXICO (U), 10 35MM COLOR PRINTS, NEGATIVES NOT AVAILABLE (U).
ACQ: (U)
DISSEM: (U)
RELS UK CAN A1LS

SENT TO: DIA/SV-5C (W/ENCLS).

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