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FEBRUARY 1983

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TEXT: 1.

[REDACTED] TOLD AGSAEMP PERSONNEL THAT PRESIDENT EPHRAIM ((RIOS)) MONTT PROMISED THAT NO MORE GUERRILLAS WILL BE RELEASED AS HAPPENED IN EARLY FEBRUARY WHEN THREE KNOWN GUERRILLAS WERE SET FREE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE THREE WERE NOT SET FREE, THEY WERE GIVEN TEMPORARY REPRIEVES FROM DEATH SENTENCES BY A STAY OF EXECUTION ISSUED AT THE LAST MINUTE BY THE SUPREME COURT. THIS IS TECHNICALLY A WRIT OF AMPARO, AND THE SUPREME COURT IS STILL DECIDING AFTER TWO WEEKS OF LEGAL MANUEVERS WHETHER THE PERSONS CONVICTED BY THE SPECIAL COURTS WILL BE FREED AS INNOCENTS OR WHETHER THE SENTENCES OF EXECUTION BY FIRING SQUAD WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAND.) AGSAEMP PERSONNEL WERE VERY ANGRY WHEN THESE GUERRILLAS WERE NOT EXECUTED. [REDACTED] SAID THAT KNOWN GUERRILLAS WILL NO LONGER BE REMANDED TO THE SPECIAL COURTS, BUT RATHER WILL BE DEALT WITH BY AGSAEMP.

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2. [REDACTED] AND RIOS MONTT DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICE ISSUES INCLUDING THE KIDNAPPING OF RIOS MONTT'S NEPHEW, JOSE MARIO ((RIOS)) MURDOZ

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WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 13 OCTOBER 1982. AT THAT TIME, RIOS MONTT WAS VERY ANGRY ABOUT THE RECENT MURDERS OF A POLICE DETECTIVE AND MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR, THE KIDNAPPING OF HIS NEPHEW, AND THE RECENTLY UNCOVERED USUP PLOT LED BY NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MLN) LEADER LEONEL ((SISHIEGA)) OYERO. [REDACTED] RIOS MONTT SAID THAT THE INCREASE IN THREATS TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WAS A RESULT OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S LENIENT POLICY TOWARD THE APPLICATION OF JUSTICE. [REDACTED] THAT RIOS MONTT IMPLIED THAT [REDACTED] WAS FREE TO DO HIS JOB AS HE SAW FIT.

3. [REDACTED] THAT AFTER THE LATE OCTOBER 1982 MEETING [REDACTED] INFORMED AGSAEMP OFFICERS THAT THEY WERE FREE TO APPREHEND, HOLD, INTERROGATE, AND DISPOSE OF SUSPECTED GUERRILLAS AS THEY SAW FIT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH

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THERE IS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LINK THE AGSAEMP TO ANY EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITIES. THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE OF SUSPECT RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. KIDNAPPINGS, PARTICULARLY OF STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS, HAVE INCREASED IN NUMBER AND BODIES ARE AGAIN APPEARING IN DITCHES AND IN GULLIES, SHOWING THE TELLTALE SIGNS OF RIGHTIST HIT SQUAD EXECUTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE COMMON UNDER THE PREVIOUS REGIME.)

4. [REDACTED] THAT THE AGSAEMP HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF RURAL MILITARY OPERATIONS. IN THE MOST RECENT IN LATE JANUARY 1980, 18 AGSAEMP PERSONNEL ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARMY LIEUTENANT PARTICIPATED IN AN OPERATION OUT OF PLAYA GRANDE, EL QUICHE (1824H 8044W). GUIDED BY TWO EX-SOLDIERS WHO LIVED IN THE TOWN, THE AGSAEMP PERSONNEL, DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, SURROUNDED A TOWN NEAR CHICANAN (1824H 8046V). AFTER ASSUMING THEIR POSITIONS AROUND THE TOWN, THEY PROCEEDED TO ATTACK WITH REGULAR ARMY TROOPS BACKING THEM UP. THE AGSAEMP PERSONNEL KILLED 37 QUERRILLAS AND CAPTURED TWO OTHERS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A MILITARY PRESS RELEASE DATED 31 JANUARY, SOLDIERS FROM PLAYA GRANDE DISCOVERED A QUERRILLA HIDEOUT IN THE TOWN OF CHIMATZEJA (COORDINATES UNLOCATED). DURING THEIR ATTACK, THE MILITARY KILLED 17 QUERRILLAS AND CAPTURED OLIVE DRAB UNIFORMS, PROPAGANDA AND CLAYMORE MINES. NO FIREARMS WERE SEIZED IN THE ATTACK. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE NEWS ARTICLE REFERS TO THE SAME ATTACK IN WHICH THE AGSAEMP PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED.)

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5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE INABILITY OF THE GOO TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH KNOWN TERRORISTS AND QUERRILLA CADRE THROUGH ITS REGULAR JUDICIAL SYSTEM PROMPTED THE GOO TO CREATE COURTS OF SPECIAL JURISDICTION UNDER THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. AS IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE SPECIAL COURTS CAN NOT DISPENSE JUSTICE IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARMY AND THE SECURITY SERVICES, THERE WILL BE INCREASED PRESSURE FROM ALL LEVELS TO BYPASS LEGAL RESTRAINT AND IMPLEMENT SUMMARY PUNISHMENT.)

6. (AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE VIOLENCE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH THREE IS GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA ORDERED AND DIRECTED VIOLENCE AND NOT "RIGHT WING VIOLENCE" AND THAT THESE WERE NOT "RIGHTIST HIT SQUAD EXECUTIONS" BUT AGAIN EXECUTIONS ORDERED BY ARMED SERVICES OFFICERS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT RIOS MONT.)

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