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[REDACTED] 18 MAR 92 CIA 288388

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA WASHINGTON DC,
TREASURY DEPT, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM,
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM.

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]
DIST: 18 MARCH 1992
COUNTRY: GUATEMALA
SUBJ: CAPTURE [REDACTED] OF GUATEMALAN GUERRILLA LEADER;

TEXT: 1. ON 12 MARCH 1992, ELEMENTS OF THE GUATEMALAN ARMY CAPTURED "EVERARDO," THE COMMANDER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) LUIS IXMATA BATTALION, ONE OF TWO ORPA COMBAT UNITS. THE GUERRILLA COMMANDER WAS CAUGHT IN AN AMBUSH NEAR SAN MARCOS, SAN MARCOS DEPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN THE ARM, HE IS IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION, IS BEING WELL TREATED BY THE ARMY, AND HAS BEEN COOPERATING FULLY WITH HIS CAPTORS. THE NEWS OF HIS CAPTURE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED.

2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE GUERRILLA LEADER SAID THAT THE LAST ARMS SHIPMENT TO ORPA FROM THE CUBANS ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA SIX MONTHS AGO. IT WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE LUIS IXMATA BATTALION, WHICH HAS A TOTAL STRENGTH OF 95 ARMED INDIVIDUALS, TO REPLACE ALL OF ITS M-16 RIFLES WITH SOVIET AK-47 RIFLES. THE WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT WERE SMUGGLED THROUGH MEXICO VIA PRIVATE VEHICLES. HE CLAIMED CUBA IS ALSO STILL PROVIDING TRAINING TO ORPA GUERRILLAS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE GUERRILLA COMMANDER'S CLAIM ABOUT RECEIVING WEAPONS TRACKS WITH OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING SOVIET BLOC WEAPONS TURNING UP IN THE HANDS OF GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THE GUATEMALAN ARMY HAS CAPTURED A NUMBER OF AK-47'S AND OTHER SOVIET WEAPONS AND HAS ASSUMED THEY HAD BEEN DONATED BY OR PURCHASED FROM SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS OR ARMS TRAFFICKERS. THE GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS HAD ALWAYS BEEN ARMED IN THE PAST WITH MOSTLY NON-SOVIET BLOC ARMS.)

3. "EVERARDO" TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS A CARD FROM A MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY, THE STATE-OWNED NATIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION COMPANY-CONASUPO, WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO PURCHASE

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SUBSIDIZED FOOD FOR USE BY ORPA GUERRILLAS. HE SAID THAT ORPA IS ENTIRELY SUPPLIED FROM MEXICO AND THAT HE HIMSELF COMMUNICATES WITH THE ORPA COMMAND IN MEXICO EVERY DAY TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS. HE ALSO HAS A STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD FROM A MEXICAN UNIVERSITY.

4. ACCORDING TO "EVERARDO," ORPA COMMANDER GASPAR ((ILOM)) HAS NOT VISITED THE FIGHTING FRONTS IN GUATEMALA FOR FOUR YEARS, A FACT THAT HAS CAUSED SOME DISCONTENT IN THE RANKS.

5. (SOURCE COMMENT: "EVERARDO" CONTINUES TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARMY, WHICH WILL PROBABLY KEEP NEWS OF HIS CAPTURE SECRET, OR EVEN CLAIM THAT HE WAS KILLED, TO MAXIMIZE HIS INTELLIGENCE VALUE. IN THE PAST, GUERRILLAS WHO HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE ARE USUALLY ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. THEY LIVE AND WORK ON ARMY BASES, HELP WITH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, AND IDENTIFY GUERRILLA SUSPECTS.)

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