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~~REL UK CAN AUS~~

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INQUIRE=DOC24D  
ITEM NO=00700955

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX153 MCN = 94010/15284 TOR = 940101553  
OTTCZYUW RUEKJCS9561 0101555-~~CCCC~~--RUEALGX.  
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~

HEADER

O 101555Z JAN 94  
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC  
RHLBAAK/CDRUSARSO MAXI FT CLAYTON PM//SOIN-IDI//  
RUETIAQ/MPC FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RUCBSAA/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2//  
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA  
RULSJGI/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
O 101550Z JAN 94

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC//ARA-MEX/INM-FOR GELBARD// IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHQA/OSAF WASHDC//IAL// IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA//USDAO GUATEMALA CITY GT  
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM//SCJ2// IMMEDIATE  
RHCGSRB/CINCFORSCOM FT MCPHERSON GA//FCJ2/AFIN-IC// IMMEDIATE  
RUCBCLF/CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//J2// IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

BT

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 05 [REDACTED]

~~REL TO UK, CAN, AUS~~

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) MEXICO (MX); GUATEMALA (GT);  
EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJECT: IIR [REDACTED] MEXICAN NAVY PERSPECTIVE

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ON CHIAPAS GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT  
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT  
CLASSIFIED - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
RELEASABLE TO ~~UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA,~~  
AUSTRALIA.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 940105.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

SOURCE: A. (U) [REDACTED]  
B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LA JORNADA",  
880727, MEXICO CITY, IN SPANISH;  
C. (U) NEWSPAPER, "EL SOL DE MEDIO DIA",  
880726, MEXICO CITY, IN SPANISH.

SUMMARY: ~~(C/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~ [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. ~~(C/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~ THE MEXICAN NAVY,  
THOUGH NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE  
ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY GUERRILLAS IN THE  
STATE OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO, IS CLOSELY MONITORING ALL  
OPERATIONS [REDACTED] THE  
NAVY IS ALSO INCREASING ITS VIGILANCE OF LITTORAL AND  
INLAND RIVER AREAS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTIONAL CONTROL.  
THEIR PERSPECTIVE, INSIGHTS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE FOLLOWS.

2. ~~(C/REL UK, CAN, AUS)~~ [REDACTED]

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B. [REDACTED]

C. SINCE IT IS EASY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MEXICAN, GUATEMALAN AND EL SALVADORAN ACCENTS, OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT ACCENTS HEARD [REDACTED] DURING MEDIA INTERVIEWS WERE FREQUENTLY THOSE OF NON-MEXICANS. THIS, COMBINED WITH THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE RADIO TERMINOLOGY, REINFORCES THEIR BELIEF THAT SOME OF THE GUERRILLAS ARE FORMER FOREIGN MILITARY MEMBERS NOW ACTING IN A MERCENARY ROLE.

3. ~~(C)REL UK,CAN,AUS~~ [REDACTED]

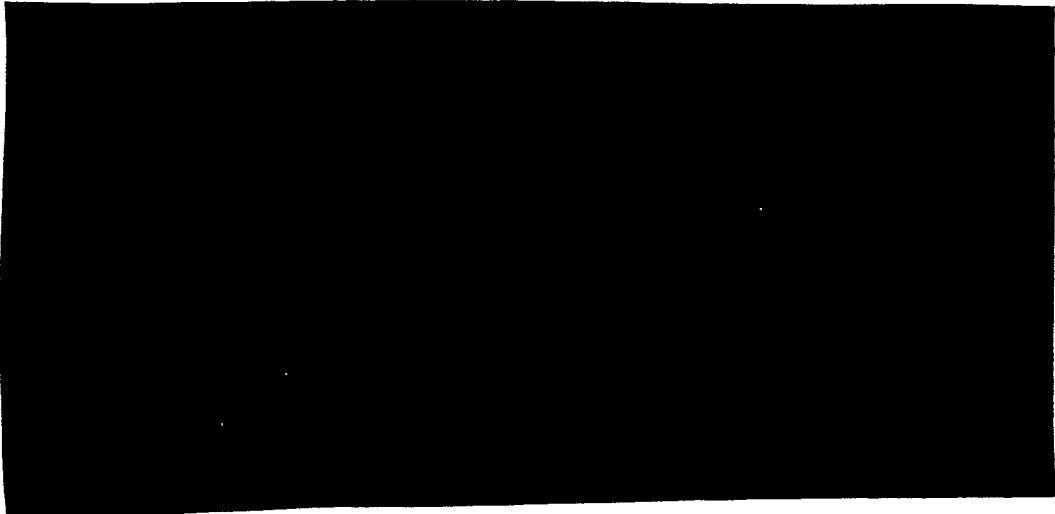
A. THE GUERRILLAS GREATLY UNDERESTIMATED THE ABILITY OF THE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES TO REACT RAPIDLY AND EFFICIENTLY IN COMMITTING ADDITIONAL UNITS AND ASSETS. THEY ALSO DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE ARMY'S MOBILITY IN THE ZONE OF OPERATIONS.

B. THE GUERRILLAS EXPECTED THE PEOPLE TO RISE UP AND SUPPORT THEM, BUT IT NEVER HAPPENED. TO THE CONTRARY, THEY NOT ONLY ALIENATED THE LOCALS, BUT DROVE SOME TO RISE UP AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS. [REDACTED]

C. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GUERRILLA SPOKESMEN WHO APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA, MOST GUERRILLAS WERE POORLY ARMED WITH SHOTGUNS AND .22-CALIBER RIFLES. THEIR LACK OF TRAINING NEVER PREPARED THEM FOR FIREPOWER AVAILABLE TO THE ARMY; THE WEAPONS THEY CARRIED WERE RELATIVELY INEFFECTIVE WHEN CONFRONTED BY ARMY UNITS. HOW COULD THEY POSSIBLY EXPECT TO IMPRESS LOCAL INHABITANTS, MUCH LESS TAKE ON THE ARMY?

4. ~~(REL UK,CAN,AUS)~~ MEXICAN ARMY:

A. THE ARMY HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE MEXICAN NAVY, NOR HAVE THEY NEEDED IT. [REDACTED]



B. BOTH THE ARMY, AND FOR THAT MATTER, THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, ARE STILL CONCERNED WITH THE ARMY'S PUBLIC IMAGE AFTER THE 1968 TLATELOLCO MASSACRE IN MEXICO CITY, JUST BEFORE THE '68 OLYMPICS HELD HERE. AS SUCH, THE ARMY IS SHOWING GREAT RESTRAINT AND DISCIPLINE IN ORDER TO LIMIT CASUALTIES AMONG INNOCENT BYSTANDERS OR RISK VIOLATING THE GUERRILLAS' HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR THAT REASON THE GUERRILLAS ARE BEING TREATED AS CIVILIAN CRIMINALS, WHO, FOLLOWING CAPTURE, ARE BEING TURNED OVER TO CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

C. [REDACTED] SEVERAL MEDIA SOURCES HAD PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS IN CHIAPAS DURING THE LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS; HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT EMPHATICALLY MAINTAINED THAT THERE WERE NO GUERRILLAS IN MEXICO. [REDACTED]

(1) THE PUBLIC'S MEMORY OF THE 1968 MASSACRE HAS PREVENTED THE GOVERNMENT FROM EMPLOYING THE ARMY IN MANY SITUATIONS SINCE THEN. THOUGH THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUERRILLAS' EXISTENCE IN CHIAPAS, THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM ERRADICATING THEM. ERRADICATION EFFORTS WOULD HAVE ENTAILED MILITARY OPERATIONS THAT MAY HAVE PROVEN POLITICALLY SUICIDAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

(2) BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE CONFLICT THE

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GOVERNMENT FELT IT COULD NEGOTIATE AWAY THE PROBLEM, AND NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO MILITARY ACTIONS. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE TO ENTER INTO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GUERRILLAS WOULD BE TO GIVE THEM A FORMAL STATUS; TO PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GUERRILLAS' EXISTENCE WOULD IN SOME WAY LEGITIMIZE THE GUERRILLAS' ORGANIZATION. AND FINALLY, TO TREAT WITH THE GUERRILLAS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE DONE ON THE GUERRILLAS' TERMS.

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[REDACTED]

D. THE COMMUNIST-BLOCK EQUIPMENT SOME GUERRILLAS CARRIED IS LEFT OVER FROM OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFLICTS; [REDACTED]

E. THERE ARE NO FORMAL LINKS WITH THE GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS, THOUGH THERE MUST HAVE BEEN CONTACTS.

F. [REDACTED] IF THIS ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY WAS THE SAME ORGANIZATION AS THE "COMANDO REVOLUCIONARIO MEXICANO GENERAL EMILIANO ZAPATA". [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE METHODS, OBJECTIVES AND STATED POLITICAL GOALS WERE DIFFERENT. [REDACTED] IT IS COMMON TO EVOKE ZAPATA'S IMAGE IN MEXICO; AS AN EXAMPLE, THE "FRENTE ZAPATISTA" CURRENTLY EXISTS IN MICHOACAN WITH PURELY POLITICAL REGIONAL GOALS AND NO MILITARY PURPOSES.

6. (~~REL UK,CAN,AUS~~) [REDACTED]

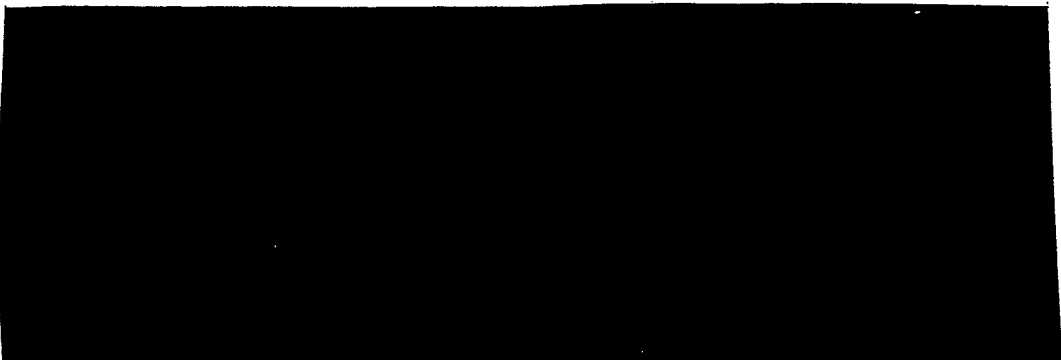
A. THE MEXICAN NAVY HAD NO DIRECT OR SUPPORTING ROLE. THE NAVY WAS ON "ALERT" AND PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH "REPELLING ANY AGGRESSION ON NAVAL INSTALLATIONS". [REDACTED]

7. (~~REL UK,CAN,AUS~~) [REDACTED]

A. THE ARMY'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONTAIN THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT IN THE CURRENT AREA OF OPERATIONS,

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ADMIN

PROJ: (U) .  
 COLL: (U) AB; AH.  
 INSTR: (U) U.S. [REDACTED]  
 PREP: (U) [REDACTED]  
 ACQ: (U) [REDACTED]  
 DISSEM: (U) [REDACTED]

DCSD, POL).

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~~DECL: OADR~~

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