

F5

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE009764

Page: 1
Channel: n/a

<<<<. >>>>

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(C), 1.5(D)

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 01 STATE 009764 120329Z
ORIGIN INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	TEDE-00	JUSE-00
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIG-04	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SNP-00	SP-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	/027R				

DRAFTED BY: INR/IAA: ASIOFFRE
APPROVED BY: INR/IAA: RHOMME
INR/IAA: DSMITH

-----191121 120331Z /38

O 120328Z JAN 94
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

~~SECRET~~ STATE 009764

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, MX
SUBJECT: INR INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT: MEXICO 01/03/94

- ENTIRE TEXT IS S/NF/NC/OC
- SUMMARY: THE ACTIVITIES OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS (LIKELY PREDECESSORS OF THE SHADOWY ZAPATISTA ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION EEZLN) HAVE TRIGGERED CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]
THE GOVERNMENT [REDACTED]

B1
B1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY THE NEW YEAR UPRISING. CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL UNREST ON NAFTA LED SALINAS TO DOWNPLAY REPORTS LAST SPRING OF AN INCIPIENT INSURGENCY IN THE CONFLICT-RIDDEN STATE OF CHIAPAS FOLLOWING THE MURDERS OF SEVERAL SOLDIERS.

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2002 200201227

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1994STATE009764

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

4. THE EZLN APPEARS TO BE A LARGELY INDIGENOUS, PEASANT GROUPING, THOUGH THE LEADERSHIP IS URBAN AND WELL-EDUCATED. IT ESPOUSES SOCIALISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FARMERS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AN INDIGENOUS REBEL GROUP WHICH MAY BE THE EZLN EARLIER SOUGHT SUPPORT FROM GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED. END

SUMMARY

5. THE EZLN. THE EZLN APPEARS TO BE AN AMALGAMATION OF OTHER GROUPS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY OPERATED UNDER OTHER NAMES. IT IS COMPOSED LARGELY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM THE PRINCIPAL MAYAN-LANGUAGE SPEAKING GROUPS IN CHIAPAS, THOUGH THE LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE NON-INDIAN AND WELL-EDUCATED. REPORTS ON THE NUMBER OF COMBATANTS RANGE FROM 200 TO OVER 2000. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT REMNANTS OF THE CLANDESTINE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY/UNION OF THE POOR FORM PART OF THE EZLN.

6. THE EZLN HOPES TO SPARK A NATION-WIDE, RURAL-BASED INSURRECTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. BLENDING SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY WITH A PRO-INDIAN STANCE, THE GROUP CALLS FOR "ARMED REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE" BY A UNION OF INDIGENOUS

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

PAGE 03 STATE 009764 120329Z
 PEOPLES AND FARMERS. THE EZLN STRUCK ON JANUARY 1 TO DRAMATIZE ITS BELIEF THAT NAFTA AND CAPITALISM ARE HARMING INDIGENOUS MEXICANS. THE EZLN CALLED THE SALINAS GOVERNMENT "ILLEGITIMATE," AND DECLARED WAR ON THE ARMY. ITS ACTION WAS INTENDED TO PROVOKE A HARSH RESPONSE THAT WOULD DAMAGE THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE.

7. ROOT CAUSES. POVERTY AND LONGSTANDING INDIGENOUS GRIEVANCES OVER LAND AND TREATMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES ARE AT THE ROOT OF THE UNREST, BUT THE SUSPECTED MURDER OF TWO MEXICAN SOLDIERS BY INDIAN PEASANTS THIS SPRING INCREASED TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIGENOUS GROUPS AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE ARMY ROUND-UP OF INDIAN SUSPECTS GENERATED A WAVE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS. IN LATE MARCH, PRESIDENT SALINAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH CONCLUDED THAT INDIGENOUS RESIDENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS.

HE ALSO ORDERED AN INCREASED ARMY PRESENCE IN

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 2

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1994STATE009764

Page: 3
 Channel: n/a

THE AREA. TWO SUSPECTS ADMITTED TO THE MURDERS, BUT THE BISHOP OF SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, SAMUEL RUIZ GARCIA, ACCUSED THE MILITARY OF COERCING THE CONFESSIONS.

8. IN LATE MAY A LIEUTENANT AND A SOLDIER WERE MURDERED NEAR OCOINGO. EIGHT TZELTAL INDIANS AND TWO GUATEMALANS WERE ARRESTED. THE ARRESTS PROVOKED ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE ARMY. TROOPS LATER FOUND AN ARMED AND WELL-STOCKED INSURGENT CAMP IN THE AREA. CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL UNREST, DEFENSE SECRETARY RIVIELLO ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF PEASANT ACTIVITY IN THE REGION. LAST SPRING THE ARMY REPORTEDLY DESTROYED AN INSURGENT CAMP AND FOUND WEAPONS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT DENIED PRESS

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 04 STATE 009764 120329Z
 ACCOUNTS WHEN THE STORY BECAME PUBLIC IN AUGUST. THE UNREST IN CHIAPAS REACHED A POINT THIS SUMMER THAT THE GOVERNOR CALLED FOR AN INCREASED ARMY PRESENCE TO DEAL WITH SUSPECTED GUATEMALAN INSURGENTS.

9. SUSPECTED CHURCH TIES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TOLD THE VATICAN OF ITS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TIES BETWEEN THE CLERGY AND GUERRILLA GROUPS IN MEXICO. IN JULY, THE SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT (THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF CHIAPAS) SUMMONED RUIZ TO CAUTION HIM ON HIS HIGH PROFILE ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ON BEHALF OF INDIGENOUS PARISHIONERS. IN OCTOBER A LETTER FROM THE VATICAN TO THE PAPAL NUNCIO CRITICIZING RUIZ FOR DOCTRINAL ERRORS PROVOKED INTENSE PUBLIC DEBATE, THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE DISPUTE.

10. TIES TO THE URNG. [REDACTED]

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1994STATE009764

Page: 4
Channel: n/a

[REDACTED]

B:

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 05 STATE 009764 120329Z
11.

[REDACTED]

B:

THOUGH SOME PRESS
ACCOUNTS ALLEGE A CENTRAL AMERICAN CONNECTION, THE REBELS
HAVE PUBLICLY DENIED TIES TO CENTRAL AMERICAN INSURGENTS
AND TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. (SECRET) TARNOFF

~~SECRET~~

NNNN

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED