

ROUTINE
R 141435Z JUN 85

ZYUW RUEHGA5826 1651438

TO DIA WASHDC//J31-48/DB-3C2//
INFO USDAO MEXICO CITY MX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NOFORN

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11888

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT), MEXICO (MX)

SUBJECT: IIR [REDACTED] MZ #18, SAN MARCOS,
BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.

DOI: (U) 850610

REQS: (U)

SOURCE: (U)

SUMMARY: (C/NF) DURING A VISIT TO MZ #18, SAN
MARCOS, ON 850610, THE MZ COMMANDER, COL JORGE
RENE ((ISAACS)) RODRIGUEZ, AND HIS OPERATIONS
OFFICER (S-3) BRIEFED

[REDACTED] BRIEFING AND SUBSEQUENT
CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED THE STATUS OF GUERRILLA
OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT, MILITARY OPERATIONS
THERE AND THE GOALS OF THE MZ IN SAN MARCOS.

TEXT: (C/NF) (ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

1. ACCORDING TO THE S-3, THE INSURGENTS OPERATING
IN SAN MARCOS ARE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) AND THEY
HAVE TWO OPERATIONAL FRONTS IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE
NORTHERN FRONT, THE COMMANDANT MANUEL COMPANY
(COMPANIA DE COMANDANTE MANUEL), HAS AN ESTIMATED
86 ACTIVISTS. THE SOUTHERN FRONT HAS APPROXIMATELY
140 ACTIVISTS. BOTH FRONTS ARE ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED
BY LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF A POPULAR
RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "RESISTENCIA
POPULAR DE COMESIMOS". NO ESTIMATE WAS GIVEN
ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SYMPATHIZERS IN SAN MARCOS.

2. THE NORTHERN FRONT REPORTEDLY HAS WEAPONS THAT
INCLUDE 72 M-16 RIFLES, 9 MISSILE LAUNCHERS
(PROBABLY RPG-2'S), ONE 60 MM MORTAR, ONE HEAVY
MACHINEGUN, AND ONE "CANNON". THE S-3 INDICATED
THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GUERRILLAS
HAVE A "CANNON" AND THAT THE BIGGEST WEAPON
USED THERE TO DATE WAS A 60MM MORTAR. [REDACTED]
IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT GUERRILLAS HAVE AN
ARTILLERY PIECE BUT PROBABLY HAVE A 60MM MORTAR.)

ACTION JSI-4B(*) (U,6,7,8,F)
INFO CJCS(4) NIDS(*) J5(2) JAD:CSD(1) SECDEF:(*)
SECDEF(9) USDP(11) ASD:PA&E(1) USDP:DSAA(4) DI-1(1)
NMIC(*) RTS-2B(*) NWS(1) AT-5(1) DIO(1) DE-3(1)
DB-3C(2) DB-3C2(1) DB-5D2(1) DIA(1) DI-5(1)
DC-4A5(1)
+SAFE
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MCN=85165/04417 TOR=85165/1452Z TAD=85165/1530Z CDSN=MAJ175

3. TO DATE, THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN MOST ACTIVE
IN THE TAJANULCO VOLCANO AREA. NEVERTHELESS, THE
OFFICIALS IN SAN MARCOS ESTIMATE THAT, IN GENERAL
TERMS, THE GUERRILLAS ARE ON THE WANE IN THE NORTHERN
FRONT. ONE EXAMPLE CITED WAS THAT THE GUERRILLAS
HAVE BEEN FORCED TO STEAL FOOD AND SUPPLIES WHEREAS
BEFORE THEY BOUGHT SUPPLIES AT WELL ABOVE MARKET
PRICES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ESTIMATE IS THAT
GUERRILLA STRENGTH IS INCREASING IN THE SOUTHERN
FRONT; FURTHER SPECIFICS WERE NOT ADDRESSED.
4. A CONTINUING AREA OF CONCERN IN MZ #18, IS THE
USE OF MEXICAN TERRITORY AS AN INSURGENT SAFEHAVEN.
MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GUERRILLAS
GAIN AT LEAST PASSIVE ACQUIESCENCE FROM MEXICAN
AUTHORITIES, IF NOT OUTRIGHT SUPPORT. CURRENT
INTELLIGENCE IN MZ #18 INDICATED THAT A GROUP OF
GUERRILLAS (NFI) HAD BEEN SPOTTED IN TOJQUIAN CHICA
BUT WHEN THE ARMY MOVED IN, THE GUERRILLAS HEADED
TOWARD THE MX BORDER. REPORTEDLY, THE ARMY WAS
ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK THE GUERRILLAS' ESCAPE WITH AMBUSHES
PLACED NEAR THE BORDER ALONG SUSPECTED TRAILS. THE
MZ COMMANDER REALIZED THAT HE WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT
TIME ELIMINATING THE INSURGENCY SO LONG AS MX
TERRITORY PROVIDES AN OUTLET FOR THE GUERRILLAS.
5. OPERATIONS IN MZ #18 INCLUDE COMBAT PATROLS,
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE,
PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS, AND TRAINING. ACCORDING
TO THE S-3, THERE HAVE BEEN 21 CONTACTS WITH
INSURGENTS IN THE PERIOD JAN-JUN 85. GUERRILLA
CASUALTIES ASSESSED FOR THAT PERIOD WERE REPORTEDLY
5 KILLED AND 23 WOUNDED. DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS
CONTINUE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL BT

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JCS MESSAGE CENTER

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R 141435Z JUN 85

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TO DIA WASHDC//JSI-4B/DB-3C2//
INFO USDAO MEXICO CITY MX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LANGFORM

SERIAL: (U) IIR

PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11888

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT), MEXICO (MX)

SUBJECT: IIR MZ #18, SAN MARCOS, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH IS HEADED BY THE MZ COMMANDER AT THE DEPARTMENT LEVEL. TRAINING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ONE OF THE TWO DETACHMENTS LOCATED NEAR IOJQUIAN GRANDE AND IS REPORTEDLY MODELED AFTER A US SPECIAL FORCES TYPE COURSE. COMMENTS: (C/NF) THE BRIEFING AND CONVERSATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND OPEN ATMOSPHERE. THE ATTITUDE OF THE COMMANDER AND S-3 IN MZ #18 VERY PROFESSIONAL AND GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE A SHAKY UPPER HAND AT THE MOMENT. READING BETWEEN THE LINES, HOWEVER, THE HOLD IS TENUOUS. WITHOUT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERGRATION, THE ARMY WILL HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT TIME STABILIZING THE DEPARTMENT AND ENHANCING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE PROXIMITY OF SAFEHAVENS IN MEXICO FURTHER COMPLICATES THE PROBLEM OF STABILIZATION AND COUNTERINSURGENCY IN SAN MARCOS. THERE ARE JUST NOT ENOUGH TROOPS IN THE ZONE TO TOTALLY CONTROL THE AREA. UNITS ASSIGNED THERE SUFFER FROM DEFICIENCIES IN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND FROM A DEARTH OF MOBILITY RESOURCES. THE RUGGED SAN MARCOS TERRAIN MAKES HELICOPTERS THE ONLY RELIABLE MEANS OF MOVEMENT AND THE NATIONWIDE SHORTAGE OF HELICOPTERS IS WELL KNOWN. GIVEN RESOURCE LIMITATIONS IN GT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT STABILIZATION EFFORTS IN SAN MARCOS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

PROJ: (U) NA

COLL: (U) AB

INSTR: (U) US

PREP: (U)

APPR: (U)

EVAL: (U) NO, REL TO: NONE

ENCL: (U) NA

DISSEM: (U) NA

WARNING: (U) NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

DECL: (U) OADR BT

ACTION JSI-4B(*) (I.M)
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+SAFE
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