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INQUIRE=DOC24D  
ITEM NO=00651884

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX106 MCN = 94004/35937 TOR = 940042342  
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS8564 0042345-~~cccc~~--RUEALGX.  
ZNY ~~cccc~~

HEADER

R 042345Z 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//  
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RULKQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA  
RULSJGI/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC  
RUEALGX/SAFE  
R 042338Z JAN 94

[REDACTED]  
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2//  
BT

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 [REDACTED]

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SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT).

SUBJECT: IIR [REDACTED] A GUATEMALAN ARMY TRILOGY,  
PART 2, THE COLONELS (PART 2 OF [REDACTED] SWANSONG) (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 940103.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

SOURCE: (U) [REDACTED]

SUMMARY: ~~(C/NF)~~ THIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE COL'S TO WATCH IN THE NEAR AND MID TERM IN THE GT MILITARY. FOUR COL'S ARE CONSIDERED A LOCK FOR BG, A SECOND GROUP OF 12 ARE NOTED FOR THEIR HIGH-LEVEL INFLUENCE WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS, SOME WITH A CHANCE FOR BG. A THIRD GROUP OF 14 COL'S ARE RECOGNIZED AS ALSO ENJOYING INFLUENCE.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C/NF)~~ IN THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 180 COLONELS OR COLONEL EQUIVALENTS. AMONG THESE COLONELS THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER WHO STAND OUT ABOVE THEIR PEERS. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THESE COLONELS, WITH SOME BRIEF REMARKS EXPLAINING WHY SOME OF THEM ARE ABLE TO LOOM TO THE FOREFRONT. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO IDENTIFY THE OUTSTANDING COLONELS BELOW ACADEMY CLASS 74 BECAUSE THE NEWER COLONELS HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY YET TO ESTABLISH THEIR CREDENTIALS AT THAT RANK.

2. ~~(C/NF)~~ THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST OF THE COLONELS--

COL OTTO ((PEREZ)) MOLINA--

AS THE CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, PEREZ IS CURRENTLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL COLONEL IN THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY. HE IS INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING, DEDICATED AND PRINCIPLED. HE IS UNFLAPPABLE UNDER PRESSURE, HAS STRONG COMMAND PRESENCE AND POSSESSES GREAT SELF-CONFIDENCE. HE HAS SERVED IN THE VERY IMPORTANT POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND AS A LTCOL, WAS THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING. HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE TO COMMAND A MAJOR COMMAND. HE IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED BY SUPERIORS, PEERS AND SUBORDINATES ALIKE AS A PROGRESSIVE AND ONE OF THE VERY BEST OFFICERS IN THE GUATEMALAN ARMY. HE SHOULD BE THE FIRST OF HIS ACADEMY CLASS TO MAKE BRIGADIER GENERAL, PROBABLY IN 1995. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED, HOWEVER, THAT PEREZ MOLINA MADE SOME ENEMIES DURING THE AUTO-COUP OF EX-PRESIDENT ((SERRANO)). THUS, IF FOR ANY REASON A HARD-LINER WERE TO INHERIT THE MOD POSITION, PEREZ COULD END UP BEING MARGINALIZED.

COL HECTOR MARIO ((BARRIOS)) CELADA--

ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED COLONELS IN THE ARMY; A STRONG PROGRESSIVE, HE IS INTELLIGENT, DILIGENT, AND RECOGNIZED FOR HIS COMMAND PRESENCE. HE HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING AND NOW COMMANDS THE ELITE AIRBORNE BRIGADE. HE IS THE "LEADER" OF HIS ACADEMY

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CLASS, CLASS NO. 72, AND SHOULD BE PROMOTED TO BG BEFORE THE END OF 1994. BARRIOS ALSO MADE SOME ENEMIES DURING THE AUTO-COUP CRISIS BECAUSE HE STOOD UP ALONG WITH PEREZ MOLINA AGAINST THEN-MOD GARCIA AND THE MOD'S WISHY-WASHY STANCE ON THE AUTO-COUP.

COL (AIR FORCE) EDGAR ((DEDET)) GUZMAN--  
DEDET IS CLEARLY ONE OF THE TWO TOP COLONELS IN THE AIR FORCE AND CAN BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST OVERALL OFFICERS IN THE MILITARY. HE IS VERY SELF-CONFIDENT, WORKS HARD, VERY INTELLIGENT AND VERY PROGRESSIVE. DEDET IS ELIGIBLE FOR BG, BUT WITHIN THE NARROW RANKS OF THE AIR FORCE HE MUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER FOR HIS OPPORTUNITY.

COMMENT -- THE AIR FORCE CURRENTLY HAS THREE GENERALS, VARGAS, POZUELOS, CAMPOS, BUT VARGAS AND POZUELOS WILL RETIRE IN 1994.) COL DEDET SHOULD BE THE NEXT AIR FORCE OFFICER TO MAKE BG, PROBABLY DURING 1994, AND HE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO COMMAND THE NORTHERN AIR BASE (PETEN) AS A BG, AN ASSIGNMENT WITH A BG PRECEDENT.

COL MARCO TULLIO ((ESPINOSA)) CONTRERAS--  
UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE TWO BEST AIR FORCE OFFICERS (DEDET IS THE OTHER), COL ESPINOSA, COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN AIR BASE WILL BE THE NEXT BG FOLLOWING DEDET'S FLAG RANK PROMOTION. ESPINOSA IS INTELLIGENT, DEDICATED AND PRINCIPLED. HE HAS COMMAND PRESENCE AND HAS AN UNFLAPPABLE COMPOSURE. HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE MORE PROGRESSIVE OF THE COLONELS IN THE MILITARY. EXPECT ESPINOSA TO MAKE BG IN LATE 1994 OR IN 1995.

3. (e/NF) THE FOLLOWING IS A SECOND GROUP OF COLONELS, NOT QUITE THE CALIBER OF THE FOUR ABOVE, WHO ARE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS HAVING RISEN AHEAD OF PEERS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POSSIBLE FAULTS--

COL MARIO ROLANDO ((TERRAZA)) PINOT--  
PUTTING HIM IN THIS CATEGORY WILL BE CONTROVERSIAL TO SOME GUATEMALA WATCHERS. HOWEVER, HE IS A VERY INTELLIGENT HARD WORKING AND CAPABLE OFFICER. HE SHOULD ALREADY BE A BG, BUT WAS RELIEVED FROM A COMMAND IN 1989 FOR CORRUPTION. HE IS PRESSURING THE MOD AND ARMY CHIEF FOR HIS PROMOTION, AND IF EVER LEFT TO ARMY CHIEF GEN JOSE LUIS ((QUILLO)) AYUSO, HE WOULD BE A BG IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, AS THINGS ARE GOING NOW, IT (BG) MAY NEVER COME. HE IS INFLUENTIAL, HOWEVER, WITHIN THE OFFICERS CORPS BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN KEY COMMANDS (E.G. MILITARY ZONE 20, AND THE MILITARY ACADEMY) AND HIS EFFECTIVENESS.

COL MARIO ROBERTO ((GARCIA)) CATALAN--  
ANOTHER OFFICER WHOSE APPEARANCE ON THIS LIST WOULD BE CONSIDERED CONTROVERSIAL, GARCIA WOULD SURELY BE A BG

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TODAY IF IT WERE NOT FOR HIS STILL UNEXPLAINED ROLE IN THE DEATH OF A U.S. CITIZEN AND THE SUBSEQUENT COVERUP, WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. GARCIA CATALAN WAS A FAVORITE OF EX-MOD GEN HECTOR ALEJANDRO ((GRAMAJO)). HE COMMANDED TWO MILITARY ZONES, ONE BEING THE PRESTIGIOUS PETEN, AND HE ENJOYED A REPUTATION AS AN EFFECTIVE COMMANDER. HE TOO HAS BEEN PUSHING HARD, PRESSURING THE MOD AND ARMY CHIEF, FOR PROMOTION TO BG, AND HE TOO WOULD BE A BG TODAY IF IT WERE LEFT TO GEN QUILO. THE VIEW TOWARD GARCIA FROM WITHIN THE OFFICERS CORPS IS MIXED, BUT HE IS RECOGNIZED AS A VERY CAPABLE LEADER, THUS HE MAINTAINS SOME INFLUENCE.

COL LEONEL ((DE LEON)) GUILLEN--

COL DE LEON HAS HAD UNIMPORTANT ASSIGNMENTS -- HE WAS MARGINALIZED -- SINCE LATE 1989. HOWEVER, ON 1 JANUARY 1994, HE VAULTED INTO PROMINENCE BY BEING ASSIGNED COMMAND OF THE IMPORTANT MILITARY ZONE 22 (PLAYA GRANDE). THIS STUNNING AND SUDDEN RECOVERY MEANS DE LEON MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE FOR A PROMOTION TO BG, ALBEIT A LITTLE LATE. HE HAS NOT BEEN A VERY EFFECTIVE OFFICER IN HIS MORE RECENT ASSIGNMENTS, WHICH HAS CAUSED HIS FELLOW OFFICERS TO QUESTION WHY HIM AS THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY ZONE 22. ALL THE SAME, HE NOW MUST BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY IN INFLUENCE.

COL ANGEL ((DE LA VEGA)) MOLINA--

COL DE LA VEGA, COMMANDER OF MILITARY ZONE 21 (ALTA VERAPAZ) IS A QUIET BUT VERY EFFECTIVE OFFICER. HE IMPRESSED THE POWERS TO BE AS THE CHIEF OF PERSONNEL (D-1) AND WAS THEN GIVEN HIS FIRST MAJOR COMMAND BACK IN JULY. HIS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN INCREASING AMONG THE OFFICERS.

COL VICTOR MANUEL ((VENTURA)) ARELLANO

COL VENTURA IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF GUATEMALA'S MILITARY ACADEMY, A MOST IMPORTANT POST. HE IS PROGRESSIVE, HARD WORKING AND REASONABLY INTELLIGENT. HE HAS ABOVE AVERAGE COMMAND PRESENCE, AND A LOW KEY PERSONALITY. HE IS INFLUENTIAL AND HE IS RESPECTED BY THE OFFICERS CORPS. HIS CHANCES OF MAKING BG ARE PROBABLY LESS THAN 50 PERCENT AT PRESENT, BUT HIS STOCK IS RISING. IF HIS ACADEMY CLASS GETS ANOTHER GENERAL (THERE ARE TWO NOW) HE IS THE LIKELY CANDIDATE. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE GOG'S RECENTLY FORMED NEW PEACE COMMISSION.

COL OTTO ALFREDO ((ARAGON)) MENENDEZ--

THIS COMMANDER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD BATTALION HAS EXCELLENT COMMAND PRESENCE. HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE OFFICERS AND HAS INFLUENCE WITH THEM. AS IT STANDS NOW, HE WILL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE AT BG WHEN HE BECOMES ELIGIBLE.

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COL EDUARDO ((AREVALO)) LACS--  
CURRENTLY A MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER, COL AREVALO IS  
RECOGNIZED BY THE OFFICERS AS A COMBATANT WITH STRONG  
LEADERSHIP TRAITS. HE IS VERY AGGRESSIVE CONCERNING HIS  
CAREER. HE WILL BE VERY COMPETITIVE FOR BG WHEN HE  
BECOMES ELIGIBLE.

NAVY CAPTAIN MIGUEL ((POSADAS)) PEREZ--  
CAPTAIN POSADAS, COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC NAVAL BASE, IS  
WELL RESPECTED AND IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OFFICER IN THE  
GUATEMALAN NAVY. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO FLAG RANK OFFICER  
IN THE NAVY, THEREFORE, POSADAS HAS A GOOD CHANCE TO  
BECOME THE NAVY'S NEXT ADMIRAL, POSSIBLY IN 1996.

COL MARIO SALVADOR ((LOPEZ)) SERRANO--  
ONE OF THE MORE JUNIOR COLONELS SERVING AS A MILITARY ZONE  
COMMANDER, COL LOPEZ IS AN OFFICER OF RISING INFLUENCE.  
IF HE CONTINUES TO DO WELL IN COMMAND HE COULD BE  
COMPETITIVE FOR BG.

COL JUAN DE DIOS ((ESTRADA)) VELASQUEZ--  
AN INTELLIGENT OFFICER WITH COMMAND PRESENCE, HE IS  
CURRENTLY SERVING AS VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY  
ACADEMY. HE IS ALSO AN OFFICER OF RISING INFLUENCE.

COL (AIR FORCE) LUIS ALFONSO ((IMERI)) VELARDE--  
COL IMERI, SECOND COMMANDER OF THE LA AURORA AIR BASE,  
SHOULD FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF COLONELS DEDET AND  
ESPINOSA. HE WILL EVENTUALLY COMMAND ONE OF THE TWO AIR  
BASES OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL AND THEN SOME DAY HE WILL BE THE  
AIR FORCE COMMANDER. LOOK FOR HIM TO MAKE BG, POSSIBLY IN  
1996 OR 1997.

COL MARIO ((MERIDA)) GONZALEZ--  
AS THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, COL MERIDA HAS BECOME A  
VERY INFLUENTIAL COLONEL. MUCH OF HIS STRENGTH, HOWEVER,  
LIES IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH COL PEREZ MOLINA, THEREFORE,  
AS LONG AS PEREZ STAYS ON THE SCENE, MERIDA WILL ENJOY  
POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE. MERIDA CAN BE GRUFF AT TIMES AND  
THUS HAS HAD HIS PROBLEMS OCCASIONALLY WITH SENIOR  
OFFICERS. HE IS NOT A FAVORITE OF ARMY CHIEF, GEN QUILO,  
BUT IS SUPPORTED BY THE MOD AND ARMY PROGRESSIVES.

4. ~~(C/NF)~~ IN ADDITION TO THE 16 COLONELS DISCUSSED ABOVE  
(FOUR IN PARA 2 AND 12 IN PARA 3), THE FOLLOWING 14  
COLONELS ARE ALSO RECOGNIZED AS OFFICERS OF INFLUENCE  
(ALBEIT NOT AS STRONG AS THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE) DUE TO  
THEIR ASSIGNMENTS OR THEIR REPUTATIONS WITHIN THE OFFICER  
CORPS--

JUAN PABLO ((SOTO)) JIMENEZ, DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS

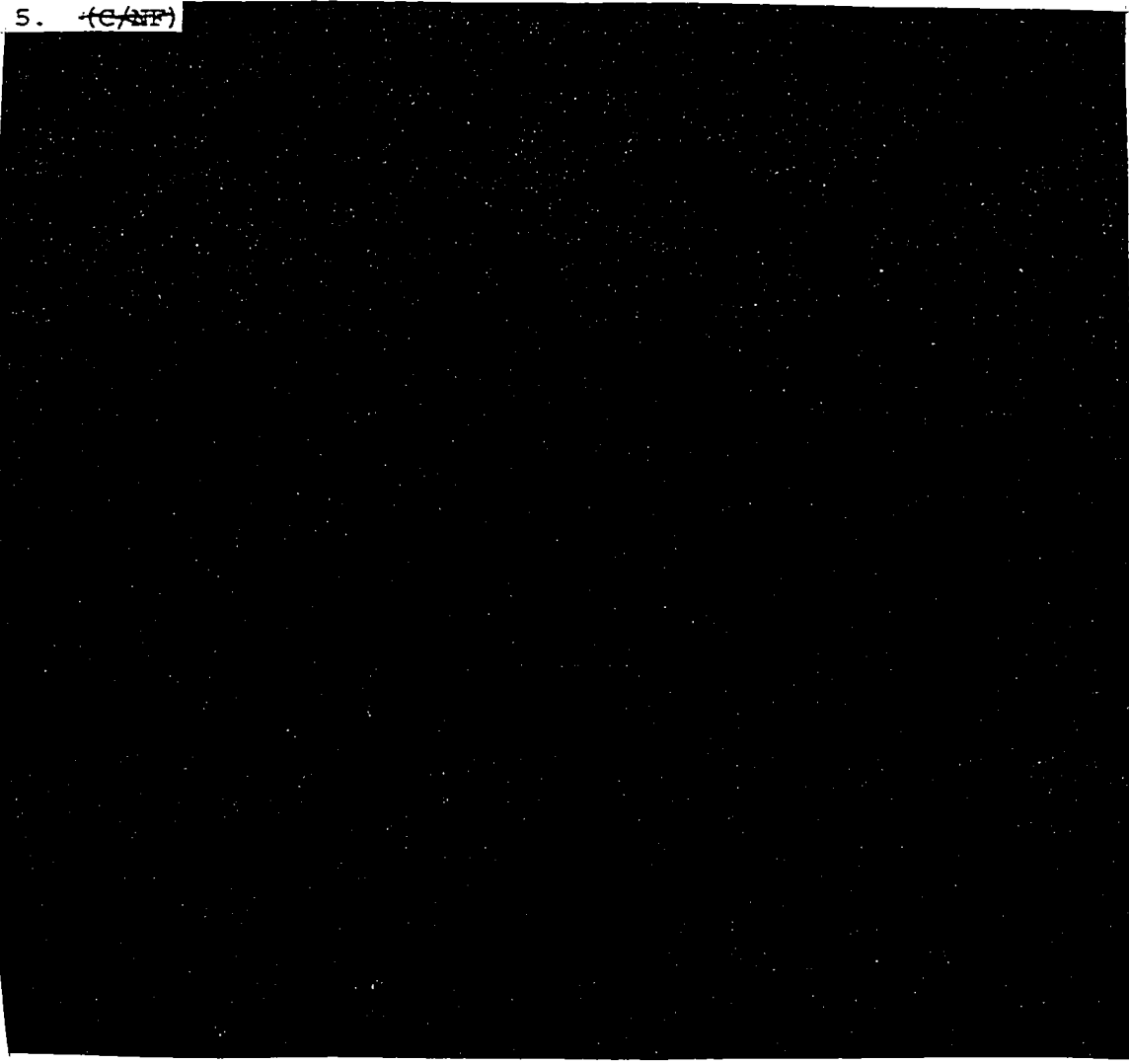
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JULIO RENE ((PRADO)), CDR, MZ 6  
SAMI NOE ((VASQUEZ)) BENAVENTE, CDR, MZ 9  
CESAR ROLANDO ((NAJERA)) AVENDANO, VICE DIRECTOR OF INTEL  
ROBERTO EDUARDO ((LETONA)) HORA, MIL ATTACHE TO COSTA RICA  
JUAN ISMAEL ((MORALES)) LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL  
MIGUEL ANGEL ((CALDERON)), DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
EDGAR LEONEL ((GODOY)) SAMAYOA, 2D CDR, MZ 18  
OLIVEDO AISAR ((VASQUEZ)) TOLEDO, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AFFAIRS  
MARIO MAMERTO ((HERNANDEZ)) PONCE, 2D CDR, AIRBORNE BASE  
BENJAMIN RAFAEL ((GODOY)) BURBANO, MIL ATTACHE TO U.S.  
JOSE MARIA ((VALLADARES)) LANUZA, CDR, ATLANTIC NAVAL BASE  
FLORENCIO ((CASTELLANOS)) REYES, CDR, MZ 705  
ROBERTO EDMUNDO ((AVILA)) LEMUS, CDR, LA AURORA MIL BASE

5. ~~(C/NF)~~



//IPSP: (U) PG 2250; PG 2510//.  
//COMSOBJ: (U) 431; 333//.

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ADMIN

PROJ: (U)

INSTR: (U) US

PREP: (U)

ACQ: (U) GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY (940130).

DISSEM: (U) FIELD: EMBASSY AT GUATEMALA CITY.

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