

1982/05/10

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

PTTCZYUW RUESGTA3368 1320300 PRIORITY/ROUTINE P R 102229Z MAY 82

DIA WASH DC

INFO DIA WASH DC//DB-3E/DB-3E2/OS-1/JSI-4B// DA WASH DC//DAMI-ISH/FII// SECSTATE WASHDO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//SCJ2// HD USAF WASH DC//XOXXW// MACOS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INV// CINCLANT MORFOLK VA CNO WASH DC//OP-009// COMUSFORCARIB KEY WEST FL USCINCRED MACDILL AFB FL//RCJ2// CDR470NIGP FT CLAYTON PN//IAGPP-PN// CDR193INFBDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN//ANZU-DS// USDAO MEXICO CITY MX USDAO TEGUCIGALPA HO USDAO SAN SALVADOR ES USDAO PANANA CITY PN LISDAO MANAGUA NU CDR JSOC FT BRAGG NC//J-2//

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 05 WOFORN-

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

GUATEMALA/TURBULENCE IN THE MILITARY SUBJ: IR

CONTINUES (U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTRY: GUATEMALA (GT)

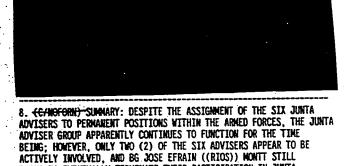
2. (U) IR NO: THE STATE OF THE MILITARY CONTINUES (U) 3. (U) TITLE: TURBULENCE IN THE MILITARY CONTINUES (U)

4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 820425 - 820506

5. (U) ORIG: SEE FM LINE

6. (U) REQ REFS: 7. (U) SOURCE: A

SECTIONAL(1)



ACTION DC-4(*) DIA(*) (U.6.7 INFO NIDS(*) J3:NMCC(*) J5(*) RDJTF:LO(*) SECDEF:(*) (U,6,7,8,F)SECDEF(*) USDP(**) ASD:PA&E(*) NHIC(*) RTS-2B(1) OS-1(*) SWS(*) JSI-4B(*) AT(*) AT-X(*) AIS(*) DIO(*) DE(*) DB-1G(*) DB-3E(*) DB-3E2(*) DB-4A(*) DB-5D(*) DB-1E(*) DT-1(*) +CIA WASHINGTON DC +CMC CC WASHINGTON DC **4DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE ND**

PLANS TO EVENTUALLY TERMINATE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN JUNTA AFFAIRS. ONE OF THE SIX-MAN ADVISER GROUP, FIRST CAPTION CARLOS

RODOLFO ((MUNOZ)) PILONA, HAS SUPPOSEDLY ALIENATED SENIOR AND

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JUNIOR OFFICERS ALIKE BECAUSE OF HIS PERCEIVED SUPERIOR ATTITUDE AND OFFERS OF FAVORABLE ASSIGNMENTS. HE IS ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE ACCEPTED MONEY FOR HIS ROLE IN THE COUP OF 23 MARCH. DISSATIS— FACTION WITH GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10 CONTINUES; HOWEVER, THE CON-PLAINTS ARE MINIMAL AND APPEAR TO EMANATE ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM A GROUP OF OFFICERS WHO BELONG TO THE SAME MILITARY ACADEMY PROM-OTION CLASS (NUMBER 72). THREE OFFICERS FROM THIS PROMOTION GROUP WERE ORDERED ARRESTED BY BG RIOS FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN COUNTERCOUP PLOTTING AND HAD BEEN GUILTY OF CORRUPT ACTS DURING PRESIDENT FERNANDO ROMEO ((LUCAS)) GARCIA'S TENURE, FINALLY, SOME OFFICERS (NFI) REMAIN CONCERNED THAT BG RIOS CONTINUES TO INTERJECT TOO MUCH OF HIS RELIGIOUS PIETY INTO EVERY DAY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. AS A RESULT, SOME OFFICERS BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE OUSTED.

9A. (C/NOFORN) DETAILS: (ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN) (1) THE JUNTA ADVISER PROBLEM: ON 12 APR 82, MINISTRY OF DEF-ENSE (NOD) GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10 WAS RELEASED REASSIGNING A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. INCLUDED IN THE TRANSFER ORDER WERE THREE OF THE SIX MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA ADVISORY GROUP: COL VICTOR MANUEL ((ARGUETA)) VILLATLTA, REASSIGN-ED AS CHIEF, PRESIDENTIAL STAFF; MAJ ANGEL ARTURO ((SANCHEZ)) GUDIEL, AIDE, PRESIDENTIAL STAFF; FIRST CAPTAIN CARLOS RUDOLFO ((MUNOZ)) PILONA, S-3 OFFICER, PRESIDENTIAL STAFF. THE REMAIN-ING THREE JUNTA ADVISERS, LTC MARIO RENE ((ENRIQUEZ)) MORALES, 2D CPT MARIO AUGUSTO ((RIVAS)) GARCIA, AMD 2LT HECTOR MAURICIO ((LOPEZ)) BONILLA REASSUMED THE POSITIONS THEY HELD ON 23 MARCH (THESE WERE 20 BN CDR, MARISCAL ZAVALA BDE; COMBAT PILOT, GAF; PLT CDR, TACTICAL SECURITY GROUP OF THE AIR FORCE, RESPECTIVELY). ALLEGEDLY. THE TRANSFERS/ASSIGNMENTS WERE DESIGNED (1) TO INIT-IALLY CURTAIL THE ROLE OF THE ADVISER GROUP IN DAY-TO-DAY GOV-ERMMENT OPERATIONS, AND (2) PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR EVENTUALLY TERMINATING THE TITLE AND POSITION OF "JUNTA ADVISER". THE DECISION TO DIMINISH AND EVENTUALLY END THE ROLE OF THE SIX-MAN GROUP FOLLOWED SEVERAL HEATED DEBATES BETWEEN NEWBERS OF THE GROUP AND THE JUNTA DURING POLICY MEETINGS IN THE INITIAL WEEK

FOLLOWING THE COUP.

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MCN=82132/03146

TOR=82132/1846Z

TAD=82132/1906Z

CDSN=MIA383

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TO DIA WASH DC

BT

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C-O-N-F-I-D E-N-T-I-R-L SECTION 02 OF 05 NOFORN

WAS DECIDED (1) TO TRANSFER/ASIGN EACH ADVISER TO A POSITION WITHIN THE CAPITAL, AND (2) THAT THE ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE AND CONNENSURATE WITH EACH OFFICER'S RANK. SUBSEQUENT TO THE TRANSFERS/ASSIGNMENTS, BG RIO WOULD DEVELOP SPECIAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD OCCUPY A GOOD DEAL OF EACH ADVIERS'S TIME, THEREBY KEEPING THE COLLECTIVE GROUP OUT OF HIS WAY. EVENTUALLY HE WOULD CUT OFF THE GROUP'S PARTICIPATION ENTIRELY; HOWEVER, THIS LAST STEP WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT OFFENDING ANY OF THE SIX-MAN GROUP. THREE OF THE ADVIERS WERE THEN TRANSFERRED UNDER MOD GENERAL ORDER MINDER 10, CHILE THE REMAINING THREE ASSUMED THEIR PRE-23 MAR POSITIONS. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, MOT ALL OF THE ADVISER GROUP HAS BEEN KEPT OCCUPIED WITH THEIR ADDITIONAL DUTIES AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. BOTH 1ST CPT WINNOZ AND 2D CPT RIVAS HAVE MANAGED TO CONTINUE INVOLVING THEM-SELVES IN THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT (NFI). BOTH OFFICERS ALLEG-

EDLY DEVOTE HALF OF THEIR DAY TO THEIR MILITARY BILLETS AND THE OTHER HALF TO MATTERS WHICH THEY BELIEVE COME UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE ADVISER GROUP (NFI). DESPITE BG RIOS' CONTINUED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE STATUS QUO AND HIS UNCEASING DESIRE TO TERMINATE THE INTERFERENCE ENTIRELY, HE DOES NOT WANT TO ACT TOO QUICKLY SO AS

(2) A POSSIBLE SWELLED HEAD: IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF JUNTA ADVISER, ONE OFFICER IN PARTICULAR HAS ALLEGEDLY MANAGED TO ALIENATE SENIORS AND JUNIORS ALIKE. CAPTAIN MUNOZ PILONA, ON OF

TO ALIENATE THE LATTER TWO OFFICERS.

ACTION DC-4(*) DIA(*) (I,M)
INFO NIDS(*) J3:NMCC(*) J5(*) RDJTF:LO(*) SECDEF:(*)
SECDEF(*) USDP(**) ASD:PA&E(*) NMIC(*) RTS-2B(1)
OS-1(*) SWS(*) JSI-4B(*) AT(*) AT-X(*) AIS(*) DIO(*)
DE(*) DB-1G(*) DB-3E(*) DB-3E2(*) DB-4A(*) DB-5D(*)
DB-1E(*) DT-1(*)
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THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE 23 MAR COUP, HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF (1) ASSUMING AN IMPERIOUS MANNER IN HIS DEALINGS WITH SENIORS, (2) CONSTANTLY USING BG RIOS' NAME IN ORDER TO GET ACTION FOR HIS PERSONAL REQUESTS, AND (3) CALLING IN PEERS AND SUBORDINATES TO OFFER THEM FAVORABLE ASSIGNMENTS.

ALLEGEDLY, SOME SENTOR OFFICERS
WILL NO LONGER ANSWER PHONE CALLS FROM CAPT MUNOZ

ADDITIONALLY, SEVERAL JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO
HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED WITH CAPTAIN MUNOZ, HAVE CIRCULATES STORIES
OF RECEIVING INVITATIONS FROM THE CAPTAIN TO VISIT WITH HIM IN HIS
OFFICE AT THE NATIONAL PALACE. THERE THEY ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED
OFFERS OF FAVORABLE REASSIGNMENTS AND HIS ASSURANCES THAT HE
(MUNOZ) COULD HELP THEM RESOLVE ANY FUTURE PROBLEMS THEY MIGHT
HAVE

SUPPOSEDLY, THESE INCIDENTS HAVE RESULTED IN SEVERAL COMPLAINTS BEING FORWARDED TO BG RIOS FROM SENIOR COMMANDERS CONCERNING CAPTAIN MINOZ' PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR. ADDITIONALLY, THE RESPECT AND MOTORIETY CAPTAIN MINOZ GAINED AMONG SONE OF HIS PEERS AND JUNIORS FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF 23 MARCH HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY INDIGNATION BECAUSE OF PERCEIVED ABUSES OF POWER. SOME JUNIO OFFICERS (NFI) ARE ALSO UPSET WITH CAPTAIN MUNOZ' ASSIGNMENT AS AN S-3 OFFICER IN THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF. SOME HAVE COMMENTED THAT THIS IS A BILLET MORNALLY RESERVED FOR SENIOR FIRST CAPTAINS OR MAJORS AND HIAT MUNOZ LACKS THE EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES. BY ACCEPTING THIS POSITION THEY (CRITICS) BELIEVE CAPTAIN MUNOZ HAS GONE AGAINST ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT ORIGINALLY LED HIM TO DIRECT THE COUP AGAINST THE LUCAS REGIME. THERE IS ALSO CRITICISM OF CAPTAIN MUNOZ' ALLEGED EFFORTS TO REINSTATE SOME OFFICERS (NFI) ON ACTIVE DUTY WHO HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY CASHIERED OFFICERS WERE WRONGFULLY DISCHARGED, OTHERS

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PTTCZYUW RUESGTA3368 1320300 PRIORITY/ROUTINE P R 102229Z MAY 82

FN USDAO GUATENALA GT

TO DIA WASH DC

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CNO WASH DC//OP-009// CI CINCLANT MORFOLK VA CONUSFORCARIB KEY WEST FL USCINCRED MACDILL AFB FL//RCJ2// CDR470NIGP FT CLAYTON PN//IAGPP-PN// CDR193INFBDE (PAN) FT CLAYTON PN//ANZU-DS// USDAO MEXICO CITY MX USDAO TEGUCIGALPA HO USDAO PANANA CITY PN LISDAO SAN SALVADOR ES USDAO MANAGUA NU . COR JSOC FT BRAGG NC//J-2//

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SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED RETURN BASED ON THEIR RECORDS OF POOR PERFORMANCE, ONCE AGAIN THEY (CRITICS) CIT THIS AS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS (MUNOZ') OVERSTEPPING HIS AUTHORITY AND ABUSING

HIS_POSITION.

(3) GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10 AND PRONOTION CLASS NUMBER 73: ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF BG RIOS FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF MOD GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10 WAS WHETHER OR NOT ALL THE OFFICERS WOULD COMPLY WITH THEIR REASSIGNMENT ORDERS. HIS CONCERNS WERE QUICKLY DISPELLED AS THE DAYS PASSED AND OFFICERS LISTED IN THE ORDER BEGAN ARRIVING AT THEIR NEW POSTS. ALTHOUGH SOME GRUMBLING PERSISTS OVER THE TRANSFER ORDER, DISCONTENT IS MINIMAL AND APPEARS TO ORIGINATE PRIMARILY FROM OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF PROMOTION CLASS NUMBER 73 OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY (ESCUELA POLIT-ECNICA). THIS PRONOTION CLASS, WHICH ORIGINALLY CONSISTED OF 95 OFFICERS, IS CONSIDERED AN ANOMALY WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CHOHESIVENESS IT HAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. WHILE IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE OFFICERS OF A PROMOTION CLASS TO MAINTAIN SOME FRATERNAL TIES THROUGHOUT THEIR ACTIVE DUTY CAREERS, PROMOTION CLASS NUMBER 73 HAS ALLEGEDLY MAINTAINED A MUCH STRONGER RELATIONSHIP AMONG ITS CLASS MINBERS. SUPPOSEDLY THE CLASS MAINTAINES IT OWN STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION, HAVING DIV-IDED ITSELF INTO GROUPS WITH GROUP LEADERS AND A CLASS PRESIDENT. THESE POSITIONS ROTATE AMONG THE CLASS NEMBERS PERIODICALLY. THE GROUPINGS FACILITATE THE PASSING OF INFORMATION AND ENHANCES THE COMMUNICATION LINK WITH ALL CLASS MEMBERS. PERIODICALLY, THERE ARE MEETINGS OF THE GROUP LEADERS AND CLASS PRESIDENT TO PLAN

ACTION DC-4(*) DIA(*). NIDS(*) J3:NMCC(*) J5(*) RDJTF:LO(*) SECDEF:(*) SECDEF(*) USDP(**) ASD:PA&E(*) MMIC(*) RTS-2B(1)
OS-1(*) SWS(*) JSI-4B(*) AT(*) AT-X(*) AIS(*) DIO(*) DE(*) DB-1G(*) DB-3E(*) DB-3E2(*) DB-4A(*) DB-5D(*) DB-1E(*) DT-1(*) +CIA WASHINGTON DC +CMC CC WASHINGTON DC +DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD SECTIONAL(1)

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CLASS REUNIONS/FUNCTIONS AND TO PASS INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUAL CLASS MEMBERS (E.G. TRANSFERS, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, PROBLEM, ECT.). FOLLOWING THESE MEETINGS EACH GROUP LEADER RELAYS THE INFORMATION TO THOSE CLASS MEMBERS IN HIS GROUP. FREQUENTLY THERE ARE CLASS FAMILY PICNICS, DANCES, OUTINGS, BIRTH-DAY CELEBRATIONS, ETC., WHEREIN ALL CLASS MEMBERS ARE REUNITED. ADDITIONALLY, THE CLASS MAINTAINS A MONETARY KITTY (WHICH ALL OFF-ICERS SUPPOSEDLY CONTRIUBUTE TO FREELY) FOR EMERGENCIES OR HARD-SHIPS WHICH MAY BEFALL A CLASS NEWBER OR HIS FAMILY. FOR IN-STANCE, IF AN OFFICER FROM THE CLASS IS PLACED IN A "BAJA" STATUS (DROPPED FROM ACTIVE DUTY), THE CLASS MEMBERSHIP MAINTAINS THE OFFICERS PAY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS. THIS IS NOT A LOAN BUT A FREE GIFT TO ALLEVIATE ANY FAMILY SUFFERING UNTIL THE OFF-ICER CAN FIND ANOTHER JOB. NO OTHER PRONOTION CLASS SUPPOSEDLY PROVIDES SUCH A SERVICE. THERE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTS BY THE CLASS MEMBERS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN OBTAINING MILITARY POSITIONS THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S CAREER. CLASS MEM-BERS WITH SENIOR MILITARY "PADRINOS" (GODFATHERS) IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THEIR SPONSORS TO HELP ANOTHER CLAS MEMBER GET THE RIGHT JOB AT THE RIGHT TIME. THIS UNCOMMON UNITY DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE MANY COMPLAINTS AGAINST MOD GENERAL ORDER MUMBER 10 BY THE OFFICERS OF THE PRONOTION CLASS. SUPPOSEDLY, A NUMBER (NFI) OF THE OFFICERS FROM THIS CLASS HAD ENJOYED CONFORTABLE JOBS IN THE CAPITAL DURING THE LUCAS ADMINISTRATION. NOW UNDER GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10, MANY (NFI) WERE BEING TRANSFERRED TO NON-CONSEQUENTIAL JOBS, OR, WORST YET, TO OPERATIONAL AREAS WHERE THE LIVING IS FAR FROM PLUSH. MEMBERS OF CLASS 73, THEREFORE, BANNED TOGETHER TO TRY TO CHANGE GENERAL ORDER MUMBER 10 THROUGH THREATS OF MASS RESIGNATIONS AND/OR OPEN DEFIANCE OF THE ORDER. THIS MESSAGE WAS SUPPOSEDLY PASSED DIRECTLY TO BG RIOS BY MEMBERS OF THE CLASS; HOWEVER, THEIR THREAT DID NOT IN ANY WAY INFLUENCE BG RIOS TO RESCIND OR CHANGE THE ORDER. INSTEAD, BG RIOS ORDERED THAT INVESTIGATIONS BE CARRIED OUT ON CERTAIN NEMBERS OF THE CLASS WHO HAD HELD POS-ITIONS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND STAFF. WHILE THIS PROBE WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, RUNORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE THAT NEWBERS OF THE PRONOTION CLASS, WITH THE AID OF THE MOVIMIENTO DE LIBERACTION (MLN) POLITICAL PARTY, WERE PLANNING A COUNTERCOUP AGAINST BG RIOS. CONCOMITANTLY, THE CURSORY INVESTIGATION ORDERED BY BG RIOS ALLEGEDLY UNCOVERED INFORMATION WHICH INDICATED THAT AT LEAST THREE OF THE CLASS MEMBERS MAY HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF CORRUPT ACTS WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND STAFF DURING THE LUCAS YEARS. ALLEGEDLY, THREE OF THE OFFICERS FROM THIS PRONOTION CLASS, CAPTIONS MARIO S. ((LOPEZ))) SERRANO, ROBERTO E. ((LETONA)) HORA AND OTTO F. ((PEREZ)) MOLINA, HAD EACH IN-VESTED 100,000 QUETZALES/DOLLARS IN A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (NFI).

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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

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TO DIA WASH DC

RT

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OTHER MEMBERS OF PROMOTION CLAS 73 WERE ALSO BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED BUT WITH INVESTMENTS OF LESSER AMOUNTS. WHEN THE FIND-INGS OF THE INVESTIGATION AND RUMORS OF THE COUNTERCOUP REACHED THE EARS OF BG RIOS, HE ORDERED THAT THE THREE CAPTAINS (LOPEZ, LETONA AND PEREZ) BE ARRESTED AND CONFINED. THE OFFICERS WERE SUPPOSEDLY PICKED UP AT THEIR HONES THE SAME EVENING AND TAKEN TO THE HONOR GRIGADE. THIS ACTION BY GB RIOS WAS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE REST OF THE PROMOTION CLASS THAT BG RIOS WAS AWARE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND WAS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THEM. ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ARRESTS, BG RIOS CONFERRED WITH THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS AND HIS SIX-MAN ADVISER GROUP AND PRESENTED THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THE THREE OFFICERS. SINCE MOST OF THE EVIDENCE WAS LARGELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND SINCE BG RIOS BELIEVED HIS POINT HAD BEEN MAD WITH THE OTHER OFFICERS OF CLASS NUMBER 73. IT WAS DECIDED TO FREE THE THREE OFFICERS PENDING COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THEIR PERSONAL FINANCES; HOWEVER, BEFORE THE THREE CAPTAINS WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO DUTY, BG RIOS ALLEG-EDLY THELD A PRIVATE TALK WITH THEM. DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE PROTAGONISTS HE SUPPOSEDLY REITERATED HIS DETERMINATION TO INVESTIGATE THEIR PRIVATE DEALINGS AND TO DEAL SEVERELY WITH ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE AN ARMED REVOLT AGAINST HIM. FURTHER, HE THREATENED TO GO PUBLIC WITH THE INFORMATION HE HAD ON THEM IF THE RUMORS OF A COUNTERCOUP OR THEIR THREATS TO DIS-OBEY GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10 CONTINUED.

THE OFFICERS

WERE THEN RELEASED AND SUBSEQUENTLY CARRIED OUT THEIR REASSIGN-MENTS. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH THE GRUMBLINGS FROM PROMOTION CLASS

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73 DID NOT STOP ENTIRELY, EVERY OFFICER FROM THE CLASS THAT WAS REASSIGNED DID REPORT TO HIS NEW DUTY POST AS REQUIRED. SINCE THEN THE OFFICERS OF PROMOTION CLASS 73 HAVE BEEN LESS VOCIFEROUS IN STATING THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE STATUS QUO. NEVERTHELESS, DISQUIETUDE CONTINUES, BUT THE CLASS STILL REMAINS AS UNIFIED AS

(4) BG RIOS - CHURCH AND STATE: SINCE THE COUP OF 23 MARCH, A NUMBER OF OFFICERS (NFI) WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN CON-CERNED BY BG RIOS' RELIGIOUS IDIOSYNCRACIES. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, CONCERN HAS TURNED TO ALIENATION BECAUSE OF THE JUNTA PRESIDENT'S CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE HISRELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS ON OTHERS. OFFICERS OPENLY CRITICAL OF BG RIOS' ATTEMPTS TO BRING RELIGION INTO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES CITE HIS WEEKLY SUNDAY NIGHT TELEVISION BROADCASTS AS A BASIS FOR THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARD HIS STYPLE. THESE SAME OFFICERS BELIEVE BG RIOS SHOULD BE USING THE TIME TO INFORM THE PEOPLE OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO CORRECT THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION AND NOT TO DISCUSS THEMES OF LOVE, FAMILY, WORK, DRINKING, ETC. THEY BELIEVE IT IS WRONG FOR ANY GOVERNMENT LEADER TO USE THE NATIONAL MEDIA TO DELIVER RELIGIOUS EPISTLES. WHAT ESPECIALLY WORRIES THESE OFF-ICERS IS THE IMAGE THAT MAY BE FORMING IN THE MINDS OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN GUATEMALA. THEY BELIVE BG RIOS' MORAL-ISTIC APPROACH MAY IN THE LONG RUN HARM GUATEMALA'S CHANCES TO RECEIVE OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT BG RIOS' CONTINUING MORAL CRITIQUES AT COMMANDERS' MEETINGS. HE HAS ALLEGEDLY FORBIDDEN OFFICERS TO SMOKE AND/ OR DRINK (AL-COHOL) AT THESE GET-TOGETHERS, AND , ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, HAS LECTURED THESE OFFICERS ON THE EVILS OF MOMANIZIMG. SOME OF THE COMMANDERS HAVE OPENLY STATED THAT BG RIOS IS BEGINNING TO EXCEED HIS AUTHORITY BY STEPPING ON PERSONAL LIBERTIES. ALL THESE FACTORS HAVE RESULTED IN SOME OFFICERS (SENIOR AND JUNIOR) ADVOCATING THAT BG RIOS BE OUSTED FROM OFFICE. THEY (CRITICS) BELIEVE THE LONGER HE STAYS, THE MORE HE WILL IMPOSE HIS MORAL ISTIC CODE.

ADDITIONALLY, THESE SAME OFFICERS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT REPLACING BG RIOS WOULD CREATE EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL PROBLEMS AS LONG AS THE REFORMS AND PRINCIPLES ALREADY SET FORTH WOULD BE CARRIED ON (I.E. ELIMINATION OR CORRUPTION, CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS, REHABILITATION OF THE ECONOMY, ETC.). BG RIOS' CRITICS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES DO NOT BELIEVE THE AS OVERWHELMING CIVILIAN POPULAR SUPPORT EITHER. THEY BELIEVE THE SUPPORT IS FOR THE NILITARY AND WHAT IT DID ON 23 MARCH. THEREFORE, SINCE THE MILITARY PUT RIOS IN OFFICE THEY CAN TAK HIM OUT.

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TAD=82132/2036Z

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

10. (U) PROJ NO: NA

16.&17.: NA

REVW 10 MAY 88

11. (U) COLL MGNT CODES: AC; AE
12. (U) SPEC INST: DIRC

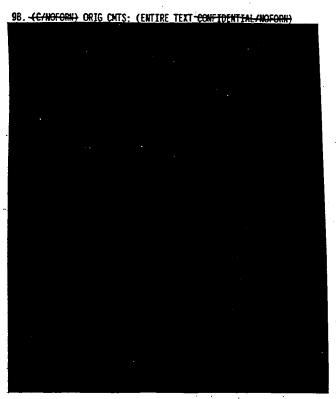
14. (U) APP BY: 15. (U) REQ EVAL: NO; REL TO: NONE

PTTCZYUW RUESGTA3368 1320300 PRIORITY/ROUTINE P R 1022297 MAY 82

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TAD=82132/1957Z

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