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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA//USDAO

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SERIAL:

(U) IIR

/****** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *********/ BODY

COUNTRY: (U) MEXICO (MX); GUATEMALA (GT).

SUBJECT: IIR A CHIAPAS SENATOR REQUESTS MORE MILITARY PRESENCE TO CURB GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN HIS STATE (U).

WARNING:

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT (U) FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED - C O N F I D E N T I A L NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI:

(U) 930609.

REQS:

(U)

SOURCE:

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(U) "EL NACIONAL," 930609, SEC A,
P.9, DAILY NEWSPAPER,
LLOK, DAILY CIRCULATION,
CONSIDERED NATIONALIST.

SUMMARY: (U) IN WHAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A GROUND-BREAKING REQUEST, BUT WHICH IS NOW MORE ROUTINE, A CHIAPAS SENATOR SUGGESTED MORE MILITARY PRESENCE TO CURB GUATEMALAN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN HIS STATE.

TEXT: 1. (U) IN WHAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A GROUND-BREAKING REQUEST, BUT WHICH ARE NOW GENERAL REQUESTS FROM PUBLIC FIGURES, A CHIAPAS SENATOR HAS REQUESTED MILITARY INTERVENTION TO CURB GUATEMALAN URNG GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN HIS STATE.

- 2. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS AN INCOMPLETE TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE SOURCED ABOVE.
- TITLE-- "BETTER SECURITY AND VIGILANCE ON THE MEXICAN-GUATEMALAN BORDER."
- SUB-TITLE-- "REQUESTS THE SENATOR FROM CHIAPAS, ANTONIO MELGAR."
- TEXT-- "THE PRI SENATOR FROM CHIAPAS, ANTONIO ((MELGAR)) ARANDA, CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO REINFORCE THE CURRENT CAPABILITIES ALONG THE GUATEMALAN-MEXICAN BORDER TO AVOID THE EXPANDED INTRODUCTION OF GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS INTO MEXICO, WHICH PROVOKES INSTABILITY ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER, ALTHOUGH THE MILITARIZATION OF THE BORDER SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

"THE SENATOR, IN HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN BORDER ZONE COMMISSION, STATED THAT THE MILITARY MUST BE IMMEDIATELY READY TO GUARD MEXICAN NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND IMPEDE THE CAPABILITY OF GUATEMALAN CIVILIANS TO "...ENGAGE IN BELLICOSE ACTS... IN MEXICO."

"HE CONTINUED, STATING THAT IT IS, '...NOT DIFFICULT IN A ZONE AS DIFFICULT TO ACCESS AS THE AREA AROUND OCOSINGO, FULL OF MOUNTAINS AND WITH LIMITED LINES OF COMMUNICATION... TO BE INFILTRATED BY GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS.'

"MELGAR SAID THAT THE CITY (OCOSINGO) HAD

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RECEIVED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CIVIC ACTION WORKS WHICH THE MILITARY TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED THROUGHOUT MEXICO.

"THE SOUTHERN BORDER MUST BE REINFORCED, NOT MILITARIZED, TO PROTECT NATIVE INDIGENOUS GROUPS FROM BECOMING PLACED IN DANGER BY THE GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS.

"FROM HIS PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW, THE CHIAPAS LEGISLATOR SAID THAT IN AN AREA SUCH AS OCOSINGO, ALONG THE GUATEMALAN BORDER, WITH LARGE FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS, IT IS EASY TO LOSE THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN ONE COUNTRY AND ANOTHER, AND THE ...'GUERRILLA CAN BELIEVE THEY ARE ACTING IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.'

"MELGAR CLOSED BY SAYING THE LABORS OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY IN THE REGION ARE LARGELY SOCIAL IN NATURE, BUT WHEN INFORMATION IS OBTAINED THAT ARMED FOREIGNERS ARE PRESENT, THEY MUST AND DO ACT TO GUARD MEXICAN SOIL." END TEXT.

COMMENTS: 1. (C/NF) THIS REQUEST COMES ON THE HEELS OF CONTROVERSIAL OPERATIONS IN HIS STATE BY THE MEXICAN MILITARY ALTHOUGH CONFRONTING GUERRILLAS IS A TRADITIONAL ROLE FOR THE MILITARY, THE PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION ARE RARE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE INCREASE MARGINALLY.

- 2. (C/NF) THIS PETITION FOLLOWS SIMILAR PUBLIC REQUESTS BY THE CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP FOR THE MILITARY IN EXPANDED ROLES IN SINALOA AND GUERRERO STATES.
- 3. (C/NF) A NEW MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE ORGANIZED TO MEET THREATS TO CIVILIAN ORDER GIVES FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE MILITARY IS EXPANDING, AT CIVILIAN REQUEST, INTO NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES OF PUBLIC SECURITY.
- 4. (C/NF) MELGAR'S STATEMENTS ARE WELL TIMED. HE MAY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PROVIDE PUBLIC PRI SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY IN THIS CASE, AS LINES ARE ALREADY BEING DRAWN BETWEEN THE MILITARY, INDIGENOUS GROUPS, AND CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS OVER THE CONDUCT OF THE MISSION IN CHIAPAS OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS.
- 5. (C/NF) GUATEMALA HAS CONFIRMED THE POSSIBILITY OF GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS VIA THEIR SOURCES, STATING THAT THE URNG LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN "IN CONTACT WITH" A MEXICAN GUERRILLA GROUP IN THE AREA. THIS MEXICAN GUERRILLA HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED

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ADMIN PROJ: (U) INSTR: (U) U.S. PREP: (U) ACQ: (U) DISSEM: (U) DCM, DCSD, OPAD, POL). WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL - NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS: ·DECL: OADR

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