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ENVELOPE

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HEADER
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 003515

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN-UNINTEL-ORCON

SERIAL: (U)

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

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT).

SUBJ: SUSPECTED PRESENCE OF
CLANDESTINE CEMETERIES ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~ NOFORN-UNINTEL-ORCON

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

REQS: (U) T-3CX-2250-02-90.

~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY: ~~(S/NF/WN/OC)~~ SOUTHERN AIR BASE WAS REPORTEDLY USED IN THE MID-EIGHTIES AS AN OPERATIONS AND INTERROGATION CENTER FOR THE D-2. BODIES WERE REMOVED BY AIRCRAFT AND BURIED ON THE BASE AFTER INSURGENTS WERE TORTURED AND KILLED DURING INTERROGATION.

TEXT: 1. ~~(S/NF/WN/OC)~~ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SOUTHERN AIR BASE AT RETALHULEU [REDACTED] BETWEEN 1984 AND 1986. REPORTEDLY, DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME, RETALHULEU WAS USED AS THE CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST THEATER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE GUATEMALAN ARMY. THE COMMANDER OF THIS THEATER OF OPERATIONS DURING THIS TIME WAS FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE (MOD) GENERAL HECTOR ALEJANDRO ((GRAHAJO)). MORALES.

2. ~~(S/NF/WN/OC)~~ [REDACTED] DURING THIS PERIOD, THE DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (D-2) RAN AND COORDINATED ALL OPERATIONS FOR THIS THEATER. THE SOUTHERN BASE ITSELF WAS USED AS BOTH AN OPERATIONS CENTER AND AS AN INTERROGATION CENTER BY THE D-2. SMALL BUILDINGS ON THE BASE THAT HAVE SINCE BEEN DESTROYED WERE USED AS HOLDING CELLS AND INTERROGATION ROOMS FOR CAPTURED INSURGENTS AND SUSPECTED COLLABORATORS WITH THE INSURGENTS. THERE WERE PITS DUG ON THE PERIMETER OF THE BASE, NOW FILLED WITH CONCRETE, THAT WERE ONCE FILLED WITH WATER AND USED TO HOLD PRISONERS. REPORTEDLY, THERE WERE CAGES OVER THE PITS AND THE WATER LEVEL WAS SUCH THAT THE INDIVIDUALS HELD WITHIN THEM WERE FORCED TO HOLD ON TO THE BARS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEIR HEADS ABOVE WATER AND AVOID DROWNING.

3. ~~(S/NF/WN)~~ ONE TECHNIQUE USED, [REDACTED] TO REMOVE INSURGENTS THAT HAD BEEN KILLED DURING INTERROGATION, AND AT TIMES, THAT WERE STILL ALIVE BUT NEEDED TO DISAPPEAR WAS TO THROW THEM OUT OF AIRCRAFT OVER THE OCEAN. IAI-201 ARAVA'S WERE NORMALLY PARKED AT THE SOUTH END OF THE RUNWAY AFTER MIDNIGHT, MANNED ONLY BY A PILOT AND CO-PILOT. D-2 PERSONNEL WOULD DRIVE BOUND PRISONERS AND BODIES OUT TO THE WAITING AIRCRAFT AND LOAD THEM ABOARD. -- THE PILOTS WERE INSTRUCTED TO FLY 30 MINUTES OFF THE COAST OF GUATEMALA AND THEN PUSH THE PRISONERS AND BODIES OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT. IN THIS WAY, THE D-2 HAS ABLE TO REMOVE THE MAJORITY OF THE EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE PRISONERS HAD BEEN TORTURED AND KILLED.

4. ~~(S/NF/WN/OC)~~ [REDACTED] WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE SOUTHERN AIR BASE HAD ATTEMPTED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AT THE BASE FOR THE TROOPS BY ALLOWING

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THEM TO GROW THEIR OWN VEGETABLES IN PLOTS OF LAND ON THE BASE. THE OFFICER HAS DENIED PERMISSION TO ALLOW THE SOLDIERS TO CULTIVATE THE IDENTIFIED PLOTS OF LAND BY THE BASE COMMANDER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. REPORTEDLY, A SENIOR SPECIALIST HAD TAKEN THE OFFICER ASIDE AND HAD INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD BE BETTER OFF TO DROP THE REQUEST, BECAUSE THE LOCATIONS HE HAD WANTED TO CULTIVATE WERE BURIAL SITES THAT HAD BEEN USED BY THE D-2 DURING THE MID-EIGHTIES WHEN ~~REDACTED~~ HAS AN OPERATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ARMY.

COMMENTS: (G/AF) ~~REDACTED~~ THESE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES CEASED IN GUATEMALA SEVERAL YEARS AGO AFTER INCREASED INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES SURFACED. THE ARMY IS MORE SENSITIZED TO ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THIS NATURE TODAY THAN THEY WERE IN THE PAST.

//IPSP: (U) PG 2250//.

//COMSOBJ: (U) 431//.

ADMIN

PROJ: (U).

INSTR: (U) U.S. NO.



~~WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED SECRET NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS -- WARNING NOTICE -- INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED -- DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.~~

~~DECL: OADR~~

~~BT~~

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