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10 ACTION ARA-16 -5-72

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2412
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN
AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN
AMCONSUL MEXICALI UNN
AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN
AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY: ARREST OF GUERRERO AMBUSH SUSPECTS
AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
Pol 23-9 Mex

REF: MEXICO 3462

IO SUMMARY: MEXICAN ARMY HAS CAPTURED AND AT LENGTH HANDED OVER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES A NUMBER OF SUSPECTS IN JUNE 25 AMBUSH OF ARMY TRUCK IN GUERRERO. SOME OF SUSPECTS EVIDENTLY LINKED TO LUCIO CABANAS GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION BUT APPEAR TO BE IOW-LEVEL TYPES. MEANWHILE, LAST TEN DAYS OF JULY SAW VARIETY OF OTHER VIOLENT INCIDENTS APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO FOREGOING AND TO EACH OTHER. PAN ATTEMPT TO BLAME FEDERAL GOVT FOR CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE HAS SET OFF TYPICAL ROUND OF PARTISAN NAME-CALLING. END SUMMARY.

(2)

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, MEXICAN ARMY TRUCK WAS AMBUSHED IN RUGGED AREA OF GUERRERO STATE JUNE 25 WITH FEN OF TWELVE ARMY PERSONNEL ABOARD KILLED. IMMEDIATE SPECULATION WAS THAT

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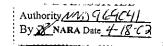
AMBUSH STAGED BY GUERRILLA GROUP KNOWN AS "PARTY OF THE POOR" UNDER COMMAND OF LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS. AUTHORSHIP HAS SINCE BEEN AMPLY CONFIRMED BY VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING CABANAS HIMSELF IN STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR-LEFT WEEKLY "POR GUE?" (WHICH EDITORIALLY CALLED AMRUSH BIGGEST GUERRILLA ACHIEVEMENT IN "NEW ERA" SINCE DEATH OF GENARO VAZQUEZ ROJAS EARLY THIS

3. FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS, CIVIL AND MILITARY, HAVE GENERALLY STUCK TO ESTABLISHED GOM POSITION THAT AMBUSH WAS NOT POLITICAL IN MOTIVATION SINCE MEXICO HAS ONLY BANDITS, NOT GUFRRILLAS. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, GOM HAS SHOWN IT KNOWS WHERE AND FOR WHOM TO LOOK, BY CONTINUING EXTENSIVE MILITARY SEARCH OPERATION (REFTEL) AND DETAINING VARIOUS CABANAS RELATIVES FOR GUESTIONING.

4. WITH PASSAGE OF TIME AND ABSENCE OF DEVELOPMENTS, STORY HAD VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED FROM LOCAL PRESS UNTIL AUG 1, WHEN MOST PAPERS REPORTED HANDING OVER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN GUERRERO OF ABOUT 20 SUSPECTS PICKED UP EARLY JULY BY ARMY OR OTHER AGENCIES IN ATOYAC DE ALVAREZ REGION OF GUERRERO. PRESS AUG 2 AND 3 CARRIES ACCOUNTS OF COURT APPEARANCES BY SEVERAL OF SUSPECTS, MAINLY ILLITERATE CAMPESINOS IN LATE TEENS OR 20'S. SOMF ADMITTED MEMBERSHIP IN "PARTY OF POOR", BUT DENIED KNOWING CABANAS PERSONALLY. ONE, HOWEVER, CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESSED INTO MEMBERSHIP BY CABANAS AND OTHERS. AT LEAST TWO ADMITTED BEING PRESENT AT SCENE OF AMBUSH BUT CLAIMED TO HAVE FIRED INTO AIR RATHER THAN AT ARMY TRUCK. SOME SUSPECTS WHEN APPEARING BEFORE JUDGE EXTRACTED BY MEANS OF TORTUBE.

STATEMENTS, REPUDIATED CONFUSED AS RESULT OF CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS, REPUDIATED CONFESSIONS, ETC. JUDGING FROM LOW EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF SUSPECTS SO FAR BROUGHT INTO COURT AND APPARENTLY RECENT AFFILIATION OF SEVERAL OF THEM WITH CABANAS GROUP, HOWEVER, WE RELIEVE THEY ARE OF ONLY MARGINAL IMPORTANCE IN HIS ORGANIZATION. ALSO, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THEY REPRESENT ONLY FRACTION OF THOSE ACTUALLY DETAINED IN GUERRERO. (MEXICO CITY DAILY EL UNIVERSAL ALLEGES THERE IS "GREAT ALARM" AMONG CAMPESINOS IN ATOYAC AREA, WHO RISK BEING "DETAINED AND SUPJECTED TO TORTURE" IF THEY GO

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OUT TO WORK THEIR FIELDS. AND "DOZENS" HAVE THEREFORE LEFT FOR ACAPULCO "IN SEARCH OF WORK AND PROTECTION".)

6. OTHERWISE, LATE JULY SAW UNUSUAL NUMBEROF PROMINENT KILLINGS, NONE OF THEM SO FAR CLARIFIED, WHICH APPEAR UNRELATED TO GUERRERO AMBUSH OR TO ONE ANOTHER. PRINCIPAL ONES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

7. NIGHT OF JULY 20-21, ARCHITECT JOEL ARRIAGA NAVARRO,
HEAD OF A PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN PUEBLA, WAS SHOT AND KILLED
BY STILL-UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN. ARRIAGA REPORTEDLY STUDIED
AT PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIV IN MOSCOW 1962-63 AND WAS ACTIVE
MEMBER MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY. IMPRISONED FOR ROLE IN
18EE A-658/10EC 151, REPORTEDLY AT INSTANCE LEFTISTS WHO
PRESENTLY CONTROL UNIV OF PUEBLA, AND HIS DEATH BELIEVED
RELATED TO LONG-TIME LEFT-RIGHT ANTAGONISMS IN PUEBLA WHICH
1SEE A-143, MARCH 291. DESPITE PRESENCE OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATING
1SEE A-143, MARCH 291. DESPITE PRESENCE OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATING
RODRIGUEZ WHICH SENT IN AT REQUEST OF STATE AUTHORITIES, AND
SOLVED, NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. IN THIS CLIMATE, ALL SORTS
OF THEORIES FLOURISHING, INCLUDING ONE THAT ARRIAGA KILLED
MCBRIDE

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