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AGE: E1 TEGUCIGALPA 3461 DTG: 3 3008Z OCT 84 FSN: 0139
0149 H026347 TOR: 305/0152Z CSN: H02740

LOCALLY IN HONDURAS.

Handwritten: 01/10/84
Subversion

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 13461

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PTER, HO, NU, CU, XK

SUBJECT: THE LORENZO ZELAYA REVOLUTIONARY FRONT:

- HONDURAN POLICE PRESENT 19 DETAINEES TO PRESS

1. SUMMARY. IN HIGHLY PUBLICIZED (AT LEAST IN HONDURAS) PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 29, HONDURAN NATIONAL POLICE BRIEFED MEDIA ON RECENT ARRESTS OF 19 MEMBERS OF "LORENZO ZELAYA" REVOLUTIONARY FRONT. FROM INTERROGATION OF CAPTIVES, POLICE SPOKESMAN DETAILED HOW FIVE OF GROUP HAD BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA AND NICARAGUA BEFORE JULY 1984 REINFILTRATION INTO HONDURAS, AND HOW THE FRONT OPERATED AND WAS ORGANIZED. DETAINEES THEMSELVES THEN ANSWERED QUESTIONS, CORROBORATING POLICE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY HAD BEEN TREATED WELL BY POLICE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 29 HONDURAN NATIONAL POLICE FORCE (FUSEP) HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO MAKE PUBLIC RESULTS OF INTERROGATION OF 19 DETAINEES TAKEN IN LAST TWO MONTHS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE "LORENZO ZELAYA" REVOLUTIONARY FRONT.

3. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON HONDURAN RADIO NETS AND ONE TV CHANNEL, AND FILMED BY NBC. INTERNATIONAL PRESS ALSO REPRESENTED BY AT LEAST REUTERS. (SOME OTHER LOCAL REPS HAD ALREADY LEFT TO COVER NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS.) ALL HONDURAN DAILIES CARRY FRONT PAGE STORIES ON PRESS CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER 30 EDITIONS.

4. AFTER INTRODUCTION DESCRIBING DETAINEES, THEIR RECRUITMENT AND MISSIONS BY FUSEP PRESS SPOKESMAN, DETAINEES WERE INDIVIDUALLY QUESTIONED. ALL STATED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED WELL BY POLICE IN DETENTION. FIVE HAD BEEN TRAINED AT PINAR DEL RIO IN CUBA AND INFILTRATED INTO THE COUNTRY IN JULY; THE REMAINING 14 WERE RECRUITED AND INDOCTRINATED

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF FUSEP PRESS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ARE:

- THE MOST RECENT JULY 1984 INFILTRATION OF SUBVERSIVES UNDER THE COMMAND OF JOSE MARIA REYES MATA INTO OLARCHO IN JULY 1983. THUS: "THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT HAS ADDED TO ITS CELEBRATION OF ITS ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION SINCE 1982 BY SENDING CONTINGENTS OF SUBVERSIVE DELINQUENTS INTO HONDURAN TERRITORY."

- -- AMONG THOSE DETAINED SINCE JULY 1984 WERE SUBVERSIVES TRAINED IN CUBA, WHO RETURNED TO NICARAGUA IN MID-1983 AND WERE ASSISTED IN MANAGUA BY THE SANDINISTA ORGANIZATION TO AID FOREIGN SUBVERSIVES, WHICH IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HEADED BY TOMAS BORGE.

- -- IN ADDITION TO THOSE CAPTURED, OTHER MEMBERS OF COORDINATING GROUP OF "LORENZO ZELAYA" POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT WHO TRAINED IN CUBA WERE SAID TO BE JORGE MAX ZAVALA, HILDA ROSA CERRATO DE ZAVALA, GUILLERMO NEY, RENATO ROSALES, HILDA ROSA RIVERA, NELSON AVILA, ALLEN FAJARDO REINA, MARIA EUGENIA RAMOS, AND VIRGILIO CARIAS. (PRESENT STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS NOT ADDRESSED.)

- -- IN 1983-84 ALL OF THE HONDURAN SUBVERSIVES WERE DISTRIBUTED AMONG UNITS OF THE SANDINISTA ARMY (EPS) WHERE FOR FOUR-TO-SIX MONTHS THEY GAINED COMBAT EXPERIENCE FIGHTING AGAINST THE FDN UNDER NICARAGUAN COMMANDERS.

- -- IN JULY 1984, WHEN THEY WERE INFILTRATED INTO HONDURAS, THIS GROUP USED A NEW METHOD. THOSE WHO HAD THE RIGHT APPEARANCE PRETENDED TO BE CAMPESINOS. OFFICIALS IN THE SANDINISTA ARMY (EPS) SUPERVISED THEIR CROSSING AT PREVIOUSLY SELECTED POINTS ON THE BORDER, AND ORDERED THEM TO DEPOSIT ARMS, EXPLOSIVES, AND UNIFORMS AT PREDETERMINED "BUSONES" (MAIL BOXES). THE SANDINISTA OFFICIALS THEN RETURNED TO NICARAGUA, WHILE THE SUBVERSIVES CARRIED OUT ORDERS FROM MANAGUA. OTHERS ENTERED WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 13461

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PTER, HO, NU, CU, XK

SUBJECT: THE LORENZO ZELAYA REVOLUTIONARY FRONT:

BY AIR FROM MEXICO, COSTA RICA, AND PANAMA.

--THOSE TRAINED IN CUBA PLANNED TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING MILITARY OPERATIONS FROM JULY TO DECEMBER:

- (A) CREATION OF REGIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.
- (B) LOCATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF COMBATANTS.
- (C) VIEW F FUTURE COMBATANTS. (#)
- (D) POLITICAL-MILITARY TRAINING FOR RURAL COMBATANTS.
- (E) EXPLORATION.
- (F) INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION.
- (G) CREATION OF A LOGISTICS BASE.

-- THE "LORENZO ZELAYA" POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT WAS ORGANIZED MILITARILY AS FOLLOWS:

- THE CENTRAL COMMAND: ZONES OF CHOLUTECA, INTIBUCA, FRANCISCO MORAZAN, AND COMAYAGUA/LA PAZ.
- THE NORTHWEST COMMAND: TOCOA, SAN PEDRO SULA, AND VALLE DE LEAN.
- EASTERN COMMAND: EL PARADISO, JUTICALPA, AND BONITO ORIENTAL.

EACH COMMAND HAD AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF SUBORDINATE CELLS.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF STATEMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL DETAINEES WERE:

-- THE 14 SUBVERSIVES WHO HAD BEEN TRAINED LOCALLY WERE ALL FROM THE COMAYAGUA/LA PAZ ZONE COMMAND. AMONG THEM WAS THE FPR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ZONE, RICARDO DE JESUS RAMIREZ LEMUS, ALIAS "MARIO." THIS GROUP INCLUDED ROMULO ALEXANDER CRUZ DONAIRE, THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE CELLS, WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE LABOR UNION "INGENCA."

-- "MARIO", WHO IS 30, ADMITTED TO THE PRESS THAT HE WAS RECRUITED IN 1982 BY A MAN HE CLAIMED TO KNOW ONLY AS "JULIO." HE SAID HE WAS ACTIVE IN RECRUITING EFFORTS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1983, WHEN THE GROUP BROKE UP AFTER SOME OF THE MEMBERS WERE CAPTURED. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ONCE AGAIN ACTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 1983 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 20, 1984 WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED. HE CLAIMED HE BEGAN WORKING WITH FPR BECAUSE HE WAS UNEMPLOYED AND THAT HE WORKED OPENLY DOING RECRUITING AMONG THE PEOPLE. HE CLAIMED TO NEVER HAVE BEEN GIVEN MILITARY TRAINING AND TO HAVE VERY LITTLE POLITICAL TRAINING. HE SAID HIS ONLY TRAVEL OUTSIDE HONDURAS WAS A TRIP TO SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, FOR A LABOR COURSE IN 1979, BEFORE HE BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH THE FPR. HE CLAIMED TO RECEIVE NO SALARY, BUT TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN 150 DOLLARS PER MONTH (SOURCE UNSPECIFIED) FOR EXPENSES, INCLUDING FOOD.

-- WHEN ASKED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN TRAINED IN CUBA AND NICARAGUA TO USE BOTH NORTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET ARMS, BENEDICTO PEREZ DIAS SAID, "YES, WE WERE TRAINED IN THE USE OF THESE ARMS. WE WERE TRAINED IN CUBA FROM THE MONTH OF JULY 1981 TO FEBRUARY 1982, IN PINAR DEL RIO, IN HAVANA. THERE WERE NINE OF US. OUR TRIP FROM HONDURAS TO PANAMA WAS BY LAND AND LATER FROM PANAMA TO HAVANA."

-- ASKED IF NICARAGUA AND CUBA HAD SPECIFIC PLANS FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN HONDURAS, ONE OF THE SUBVERSIVES SAID, "NO, NOT ON THE DATE WHEN WE ARRIVED. WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY DIRECT ORDERS WHERE WE HAD BEEN TO ENGAGE IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, BUT IN THE PLACE WHERE I WAS I WAITED FOR ORDERS."

-- WHEN THE PRESS SUGGESTED THAT THE ARMS WERE NOT CAPTURED WITH THIS GROUP OF SUBVERSIVES, ONE OF THEM SAID, "I CAN TELL YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE ORGANI- BT

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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 13461

E. O. 12356: N/A

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ZATIONS TRY TO PENETRATE SMALL GROUPS OF PEOPLE INTO THE COUNTRY BY MEANS OF AID FROM THE SANDINISTA FRONT. THEY TAKE THEM TO THE BORDER. THE ARMS THAT YOU FIND HERE WERE TAKEN FROM A SMALL GROUP OF SIX. I FOR MY PART TURNED MYSELF IN AND ALSO THE DEPOSIT WHERE THEY FOUND THE ARMS; I TURNED IN FOUR."

-- WHEN "MARIO" WAS ASKED WHY HE JOINED THE FPR, HE SAID, "I WOULD SAY THAT I MADE A MISTAKE, I MADE MY MISTAKE. IT HAS BEEN AN EXPERIENCE THAT WAS VERY HARD, AN EXPERIENCE THAT I AM REVEALING TO THE PUBLIC... I NEVER HAD PROFOUND CONVICTIONS ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS. IN MOMENTS OF DESPERATION, IN MOMENTS WHEN YOU DON'T THINK THAT POSSIBLY YOU COULD DAMAGE ANOTHER OR OTHERS THAT YOU INCLUDE."

-- THREE OF THE SUBVERSIVES WERE LAY MISSIONARIES (CELEBRADORES DE LA PALABRA). TWO OF THE THREE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ARRESTED, VICTOR SALMERON AND AQUILINO ARCIA YANEZ, BUT WERE RELEASED BY THE COURTS FOR LACK OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. THE OTHER, SANTOS MARTINEZ GOMEZ. SAID THAT HE HAD SERVED IN THE HONDURAN ARMY. (WHETHER HE WAS STILL IN THE ARMY WHEN CAPTURED WAS NOT CLARIFIED IN THE QUESTIONING).

-- ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED WAS ONLY 15. HE CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN TO THREE MEETINGS WITH "MARIO," BUT ONLY AT THE FINAL MEETING HAD "MARIO" SAID THAT HE BELONGED TO THE FPR. ANOTHER OF THOSE RECRUITED WAS A WOMAN WHO WAS THEN PREGNANT (AND WHO HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH). SHE SAID THAT "MARIO" SAID HE WOULD GIVE HER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

7. TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE POUCHED TO ARA/CEN AND S/LPD.
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