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Declassified by: Marvin Russell
Senior Reviewer: A/SKS/IAP/CD
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Declassified on: 07/17/2025

MRN: [83 GUATEMALA 5131](#)
Date/DTG: Jun 24, 1983 / 240000Z Jun 83
From: AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*; USCINCSO *ROUTINE*
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: MASS, MARR, PREL, PINS, ES, HO, GT, NU, CS
Captions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Subject: RMTc REGIONALIZATION (U)

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 SSO-01 PM-08
INRE-00 SAL-01 /047 W
-----213331 242328Z /62

O 242227Z JUN 83
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5483
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
CSA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
CDR USAJFKCENMA FT BRAGG NC PRIORITY
CDR 1ST SOCOM FT BRAGG NC PRIORITY
CDR USASAALA FT CLAYTON PN PRIORITY
HQDA WASHDC PRIORITY
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN PRIORITY

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 GUATEMALA 05131

SECRET NOFORN CITE 0299

PASS: JCS FOR J3/J5, SOD; SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA
USAJFKCENMA FOR ATSU-SATMO; USASAALA FOR MOLA-SA;
HQ DA FOR DAMO-SSA, DALO-SAC, DAS3-HCOLP;
USAFSO FOR DDC

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, MARR, PREL, PINS, ES, HO, GT, NU, CS

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7/18/2025

SUBJECT: RMTC REGIONALIZATION (U)

REF: (A) USCINCSO MSG 231430Z JUN 83

- (B) USMILGP GUATEMALA MSG 05029, 222046Z JUNE 83

- (C) CDR 470TH MIGP FT CLAYTON PN//IAGPP-AS//

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- DTG 171900Z MAY 83

- (D) USDAO GT MSG 0234 DTG 241907Z MAY 83 (ALL NOTAL)

1. ~~(S//NOFORN)~~ THE MISSION SUPPORTS USCINCSO'S INITIATIVES AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL A ABOVE AND IS VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE GOH INVITATION TO THE GOG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RMTC. INDEED, WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING A RELATED PROPOSAL RECOMMENDING TO WASHINGTON THAT THE GOH AND GOES BE NUDGED INTO STIMULATING THE GOG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RMTC. WE BELIEVE GUATEMALAN PARTICIPATION IS IN THE U.S. INTEREST BECAUSE:

- (1) THE GUATEMALAN ARMY HAS CONSIDERABLE WISDOM TO IMPART, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF COUNTERINSURGENCY AND EFFECTIVE MILITARY TACTICS (SEE REFS C AND D),

- (2) SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD FURTHER REGIONALIZE THE RMTC, AND

- (3) IT WOULD DRAW THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT OUT OF ITS ISOLATION AND, HOPEFULLY, MAKE POSSIBLE CLOSER U.S.-GUATEMALAN COOPERATION ON MILITARY MATTERS.

2. ~~(S//NOFORN)~~ IT IS OUR READING OF THE SITUATION THAT THE GOG WOULD BE AMENABLE TO PARTICIPATING IN THE RMTC. THIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY STATEMENTS MADE RECENTLY BY AT LEAST THREE KEY GOG PLAYERS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHOM IS GOG PRESIDENT GENERAL RIOS MONTT HIMSELF (REFTEL B ABOVE). ON JUNE 21, 1983, GENERAL RIOS TOLD US (THE CHARGE AND THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING MILGP COMMANDERS) THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE REGIONAL EFFORT TO STOP SUBVERSION AND TO BRING SOCIAL,

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POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY TO CENTRAL AMERICA. THEN, AS RECENTLY AS THE EVENING OF JUNE 23 AND MORNING OF JUNE 24, COL PONCE NITSCH (DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE) AND COL MENDEZ RUIZ (MINISTER OF INTERIOR), RESPECTIVELY, EACH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GOG SHOULD

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THE STRUGGLE BE LOST THERE. BOTH (INDEPENDENTLY) EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR HYPOTHETICAL GOG PARTICIPATION IN THE RMTTC, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING COMBAT-EXPERIENCED "KAIBIL" (RANGER) TRAINERS (NFI). (IT COULD BE THAT THESE THREE SPOKESMEN WERE ALREADY REACTING TO THE GOH REQUEST AS REPORTED BY REFTTEL A.)

3. ~~(S//NOFORN)~~ HAVING SAID THE FOREGOING, HOWEVER, A WORD OF CAUTION IS IN ORDER. THE USG SHOULD NOT GET OUT IN FRONT ON THIS INITIATIVE SO AS TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS MADE-IN-THE-US. TO DO SO WOULD ONLY FAN THE GOG'S HYPER-NATIONALISM IF IT WERE PERCEIVED THAT WE WERE ASKING THE GOG TO HELP HAUL U.S. WATER. SUCH GUATEMALAN SENSITIVITIES ARE SO ACUTE THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT COULD CAUSE THE GUATEMALANS TO ABANDON THEIR APPARENT RECEPTIVITY IF WE APPEARED TOO PROMINENTLY IN FAVOR OF THE SCHEME. INSTEAD, THE INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM THE GOH (AS APPARENTLY IS ALREADY THE CASE) AND TO A POSSIBLY LESSER EXTENT, FROM THE GOES. IN TWO CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHARGE THIS WEEK SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR ZALDIVAR HAS EXPRESSED HIS STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALAN PARTICIPATION. OUR ROLE SHOULD BE ONE OF DISCREET ENCOURAGEMENT, USING LOW KEY DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY CHANNELS. WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, THIS IS THE TACK WE WILL FOLLOW.

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4. (U) THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS REGARD.

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