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Document [redacted] Subject: NICARAGUA/EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE, 4/25 - 5/1/85C  
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SUBJECT: NICARAGUA/EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE, 4/25 - 5/1/85

1. FOLLOWING BETWEEN TEAR LINES IS THE NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE FOR 25 APRIL - 1 MAY 1985. IT MAY BE SHARED WITH APPROPRIATELY CLEARED EMBASSY OFFICERS ON A BACKGROUND USE ONLY BASIS. IT DRAWS ON [redacted] MATERIAL, BUT IS NOT COORDINATED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND IS NOT FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PER SE.

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NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE  
WEEK OF 25 APRIL - 1 MAY 1985

OVERVIEW

[redacted]

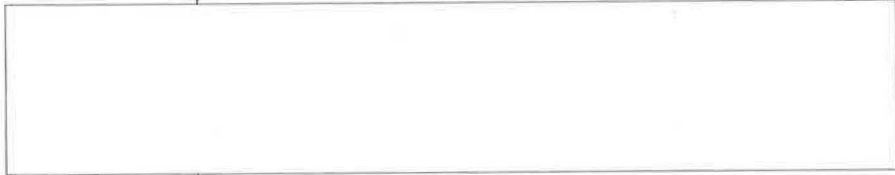
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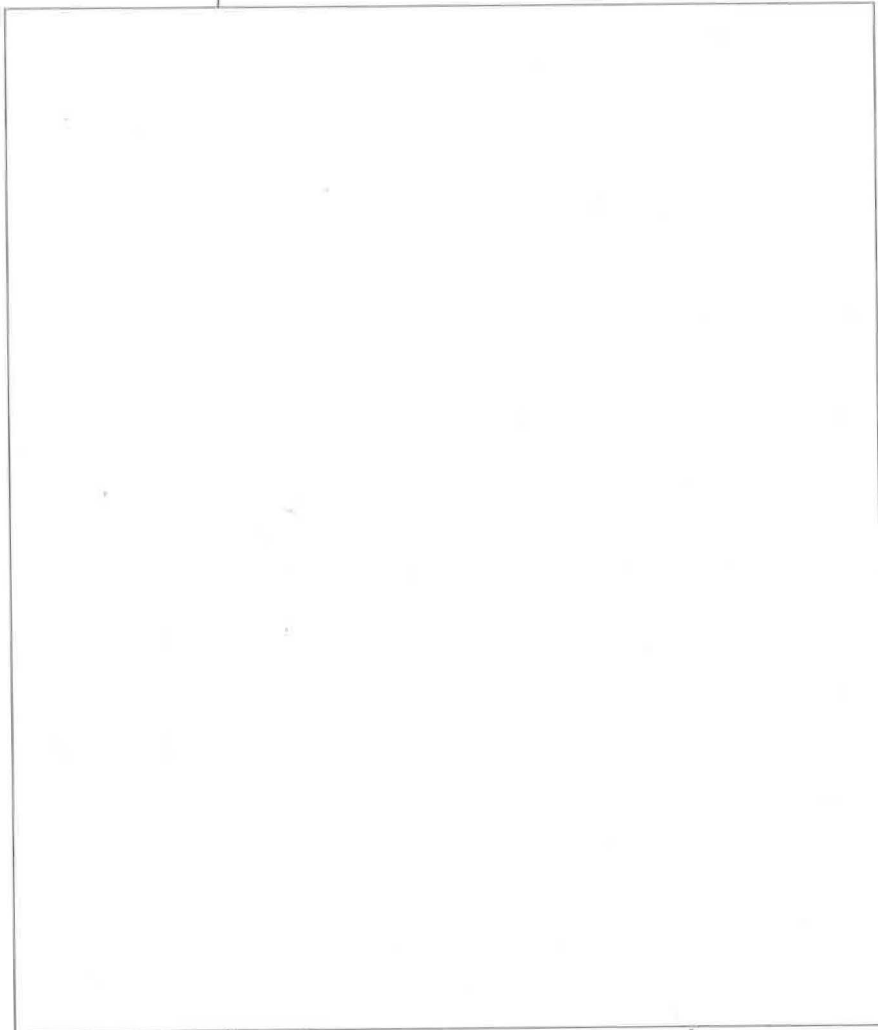


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EL SALVADOR

EFFORTS BY THE SECURITY FORCES TO PENETRATE AND ELIMINATE GUERRILLA CELLS IN THE CITIES CONTINUED AS ANOTHER HIGH RANKING URBAN TERRORIST WAS ARRESTED IN SAN SALVADOR. MEANWHILE, ARMY SWEEPS KEPT THE INSURGENTS ON THE DEFENSIVE AND RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF SOME 295 GUERRILLA SUPPORTERS, 13 TONS OF FOODSTUFFS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES. REBELS, MEANWHILE, MOUNTED THEIR FIRST LARGE ATTACK SINCE THE 31 MARCH ELECTION BUT WERE UNABLE TO OVERRUN TWO TOWNS DEFENDED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS OF GUERRILLA PLANS TO ATTACK A MAJOR STRATEGIC TARGET SUCH AS A DAM IN ORDER TO BOOST MORALE AND OFFSET GOVERNMENT SUCCESSES. (S/NF)

NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENTS

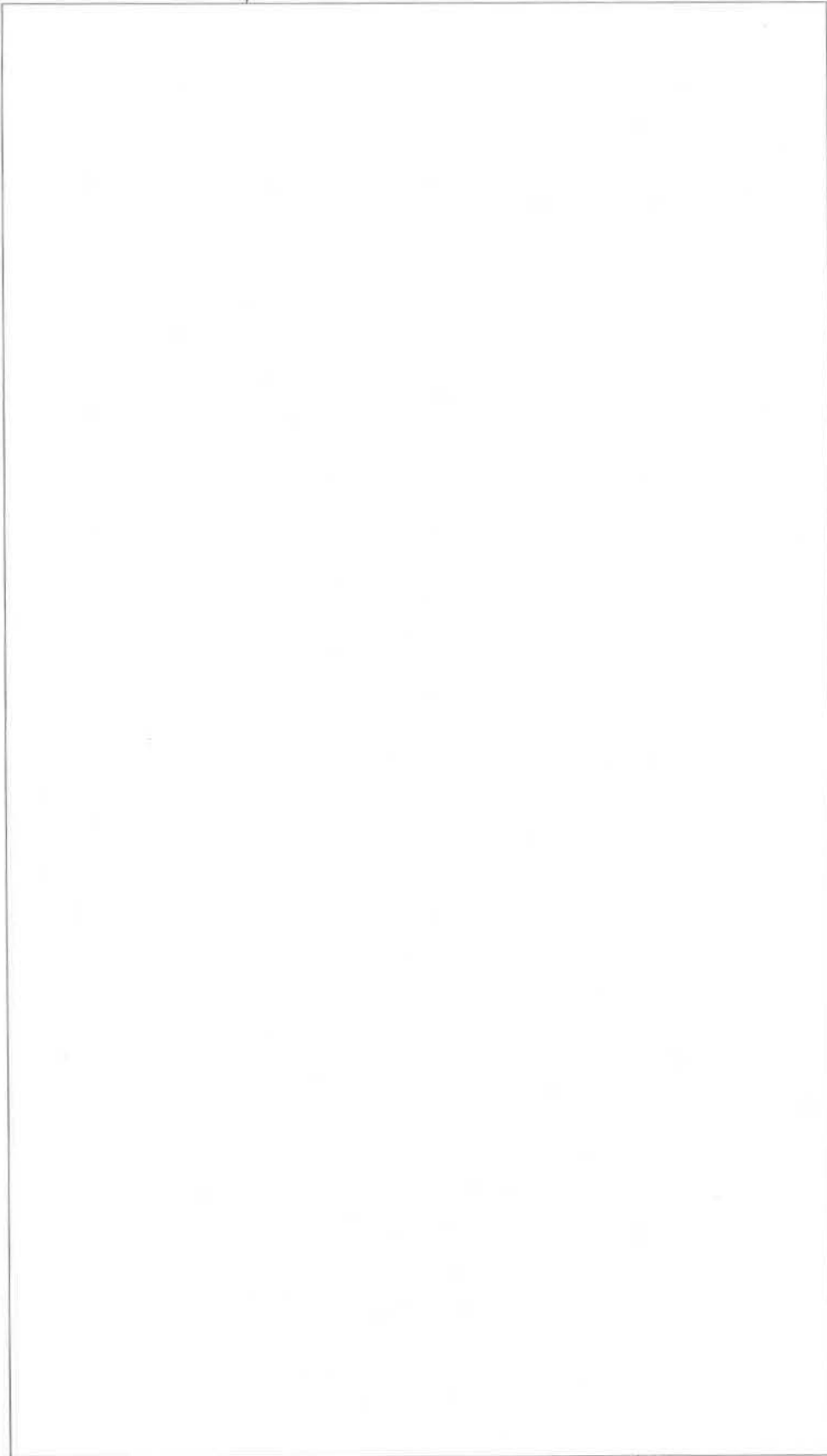


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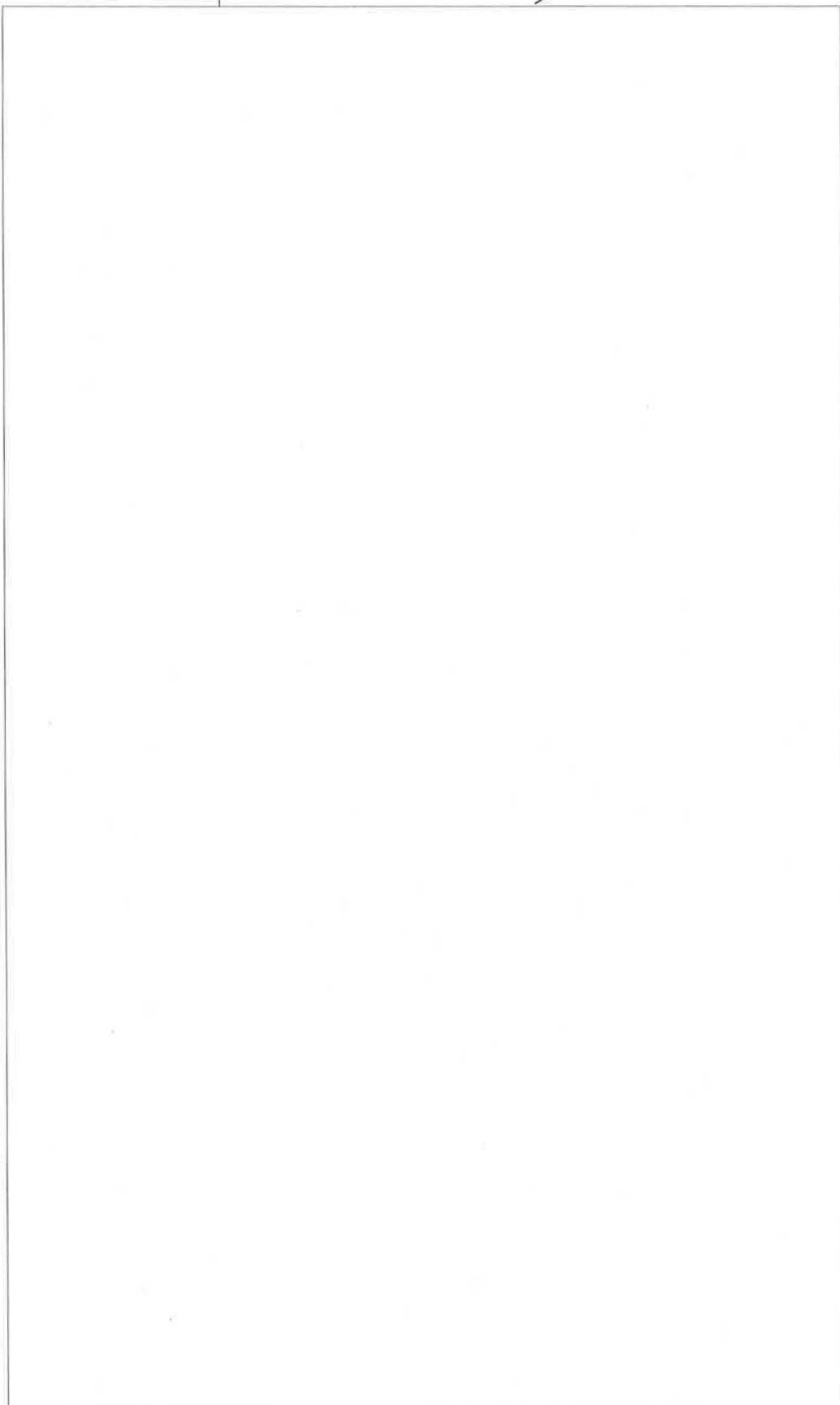
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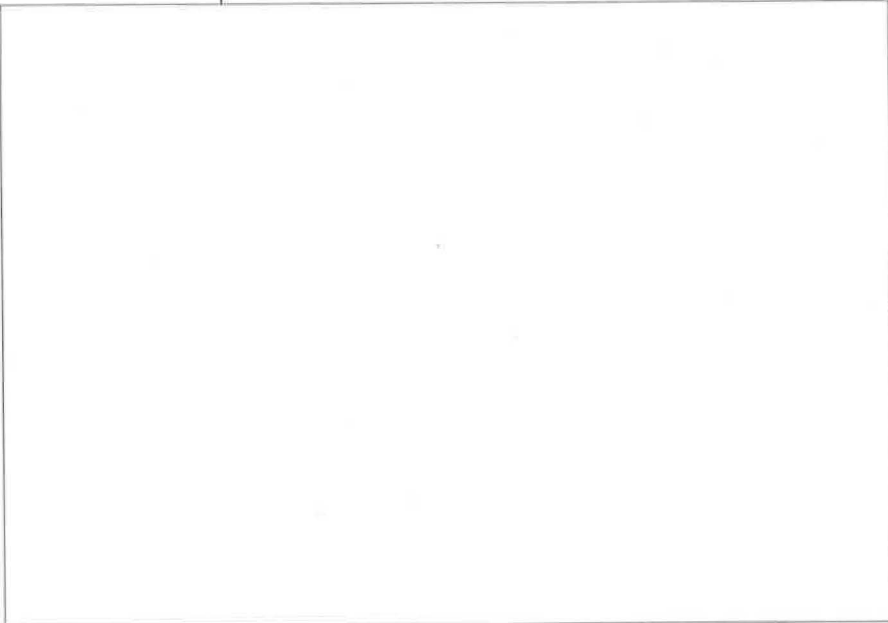
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EL SALVADOR DEVELOPMENTS

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

SECURITY FORCES AGAIN USED INTELLIGENCE EFFECTIVELY IN CAPTURING ANOTHER GUERRILLA COMMANDER--THE FOURTH IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. INTERROGATION OF THE PRISONERS AND EXPLOITATION OF CONFISCATED DOCUMENTS COULD LEAD TO MORE ARRESTS.

--ACCORDING TO AN [REDACTED], A HIGH-LEVEL MEMBER OF A TERRORIST GROUP IN SAN SALVADOR REPORTEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL ASSASSINATIONS WAS ARRESTED ON 24 APRIL; INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COMMANDERS ARRESTED EARLIER MAY HAVE LED TO HIS APPREHENSION.

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--THE SAME [REDACTED] ALSO REPORTS THAT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND CODE MATERIALS WAS SEIZED LAST WEEK. (S. NF [REDACTED])

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MEANWHILE, SWEEP OPERATIONS BY GOVERNMENT UNITS RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF OTHER PRISONERS AND SUPPLIES.

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--ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST BRIGADE AND THE ELITE ATLCATL BATTALION APPREHENDED SOME 250 GUERRILLA SUPPORTERS AND RECOVERED COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, WEAPONS, AND 26,000 POUNDS OF FOOD IN CUSCATLAN DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE.

--THE ATONAL BATTALION CAPTURED APPROXIMATELY 45 INSURGENT SYMPATHIZERS, WEAPONS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES IN USULUTAN DEPARTMENT ON 22 APRIL, ACCORDING TO SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE. (TS [REDACTED] IF [REDACTED])

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THE AIR FORCE HAS SUCCESSFULLY USED A NEW TACTICAL OPERATION FOR THE THIRD TIME AND SHOULD BEGIN EMPLOYING IT REGULARLY.

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--THE [ ] SAYS THE NEW TACTIC OF SPOTTING INSURGENTS WITH LOWFLYING HELICOPTERS AND ATTACKING THEM IMMEDIATELY WITH HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND AIRBORNE TROOPS RESULTED IN FIVE GUERRILLAS KILLED AND THE RECOVERY OF DOCUMENTS AND RADIO EQUIPMENT IN CUSCATLAN DEPARTMENT.

--THE TACTIC DOES POSE GREATER RISK FOR THE LEAD SPOTTER HELICOPTER, HOWEVER. (C NF)

THE SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN CHIEFS OF STAFF MET TO DISCUSS COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS ON 26 APRIL.

--THE [ ] REPORTS THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARMED FORCES WILL CONTINUE BUT PROBABLY WILL REMAIN LIMITED BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES OVER THE DISPUTED BORDER. (S NF)

GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

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GUERRILLAS LAUNCHED THEIR LARGEST ATTACK SINCE MID-MARCH AGAINST UNITS OF THE 4TH BRIGADE IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT ON 30 APRIL.

--PRESS REPORTS INDICATE AN ESTIMATED 400 INSURGENTS ATTACKED TWO TOWNS DEFENDED BY COLONEL OCHOA'S TROOPS, INFLECTING SOME 23 CASUALTIES WHILE SUSTAINING 50 THEMSELVES BEFORE BEING DRIVEN OFF. (S NF)

OTHER REBEL ACTIONS WERE RESTRICTED TO SMALL-SCALE ATTACKS AND AMBUSHES.

--GUERRILLAS RAIDED FOUR TOWNS IN SAN MIGUEL AND USULUTAN DEPARTMENTS AND DESTROYED SEVERAL PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS.

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[ ] REVEALS MINOR CLASHES WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS TOOK PLACE IN SAN VICENTE, CUSCATLAN, CABANAS, AND USULUTAN DEPARTMENTS. (S S NF)

REPORTING ALSO INDICATES THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE PLANNING OTHER ATTACKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO COUNTER THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED FOR ITS CAPTURE OF SEVERAL REBEL COMMANDERS.

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--A [ ] SAYS INSURGENTS INTEND TO LAUNCH A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY OPERATION, POSSIBLY AGAINST A DAM IN SANTA ANA DEPARTMENT.

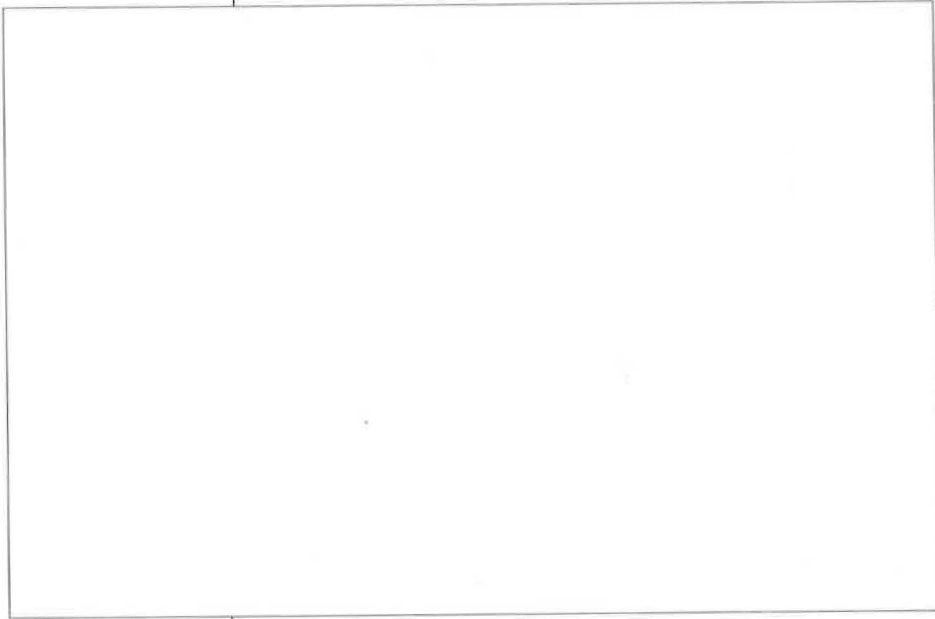
--GUERRILLAS ALSO PLAN TO PROMOTE VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE POLICE DURING MAY DAY MARCHES, ACCORDING TO A [ ] (S NF)

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