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SUPPLEMENT TO NID SUPPORT CABLE FOR FRIDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

1984.

EL SALVADOR: MILITARY SITUATION

THE GUERRILLAS MAY START THEIR FALL OFFENSIVE IN THE NORTH SOON WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE FOCUSING ON OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE TO DISRUPT INSURGENT LOGISTIC AND RESUPPLY NETWORKS. (S NF [redacted]) (b)(3) NatSecAct

A 1,500-MAN INSURGENT FORCE PLANS TO BEGIN THE OFFENSIVE BY ATTACKING CHALATENANGO CITY AND THE 4TH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AT EL PARAISO, [redacted] HOWEVER, [redacted] DID NOT SAY WHEN THE OFFENSIVE WOULD BEGIN. (S NF [redacted]) (b)(1)  
(b)(3) NatSecAct

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(b)(3) NatSecAct [redacted] INDICATES THAT IN LATE AUGUST SEVERAL GUERRILLA UNITS WERE DEPLOYING IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE DEPARTMENT AND IN AREAS JUST TO THE SOUTH OF CHALATENANGO CITY. (TS [redacted])

(b)(3) NatSecAct

THE ARMY ON MONDAY BEGAN A MAJOR OPERATION IN CENTRAL USULUTAN DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO THE [redacted] FORCES LED BY THE ELITE BELLOSO BATTALION PLAN TO STAY IN THE AREA FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND WILL GRADUALLY MOVE IN SWEEP A OPERATION TOWARD THE LEMPA RIVER. (C NF) (b)(1)  
(b)(3) NatSecAct

THE SALVADORAN NAVY IS MAKING EFFORTS TO INTERDICT THE GUERRILLAS' ARMS RESUPPLY, ACCORDING TO AN [redacted] (b)(1)  
(b)(3) NatSecAct (b)(1)  
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[redacted] SAYS THE NAVY WILL REBUILD AND OVERHAUL PATROL CRAFT, PURCHASE MORE PATROL BOATS, AND ESTABLISH A 580-MAN BATTALION AT PUERTO EL TRIUNFO IN SOUTHERN USULUTAN. THE NAVY REPORTEDLY HOPES TO FORM FIVE SQUADRONS--HAVING FOUR BOATS EACH--AND KEEP FOUR OF THE SQUADRONS ON CONTINUOUS PATROL BETWEEN ACAJUTLA AND THE GULF OF FONSECA. (S-NF) [redacted]

(b)(3) NatSecAct (b)(1)

COMMENT: [redacted]

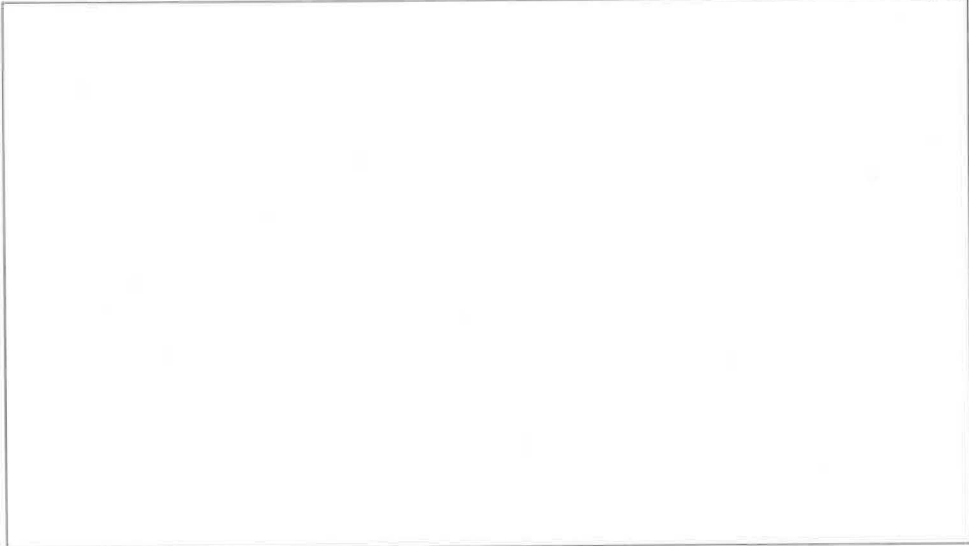
(b)(3) NatSecAct INDICATED GROWING GUERRILLA STRENGTH

IN CHALATENANGO. IF THE INSURGENTS CAN STRIKE THERE QUICKLY, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE SOME SUCCESSES BEFORE THE AGGRESSIVE NEW HEAD OF THE 4TH BRIGADE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL OCHOA, BECOMES FAMILIAR WITH HIS NEW COMMAND AND DECIDES HOW BEST TO USE THE FORCES AT HIS DISPOSAL. (S-NF)

THE NAVY'S PLANS REFLECT THE HIGH COMMAND'S DESIRE TO HAVE THAT SERVICE MORE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE WAR. THE NAVAL BATTALION IN SOUTHERN USULUTAN HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTING ONE OF THE MAJOR GUERRILLA LOGISTIC AND RESUPPLY CENTERS, BUT MAINTENANCE PRACTICES WILL HAVE TO BE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY BEFORE THE NAVY CAN STOP ARMS RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES AT SEA. (S-NF) [redacted]

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