

CONFIDENTIAL

B10

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

PRIORITY
P 271731Z NOV 82

LTC MARIO ENRIQUE ((ACEVEDO)) WAS NAMED COMMANDER OF THE
COMMANDO CENTER THERE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.

BA. (C) DETAILS: ENTIRE TEXT CONFIDENTIAL

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

WITH RESPECT TO THE EASTERN DEPARTMENTS, THE CREATION OF A
THEATER OF OPERATIONS THERE, THE ASSIGNMENT OF LTC ACEVEDO
AS COMMANDER OF THE COMMANDO CENTER AND MORAZAN DEPARTMENT,
AND THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER WHETHER TO ATTEMPT TO PROTECT
KEY ECONOMIC ZONES OR LAUNCH AN ALL OUT OFFENSIVE AGAINST
THE GUERRILLAS.

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC
3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

(2) EASTERN ES: THE AFGS IS CONCERNED WITH HOW THE
SITUATION IN NORTHERN MORAZAN HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE
PAST 4-6 WEEKS, AND THAT GUERRILLA CONTROL IS NOW BEGINNING
TO SPREAD INTO NORTHERN LA UNION.

GUERRILLA STRATEGY CONTEMPLATES SEIZING LISIQUE

THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY
AND ENCIRCLING
THE MORAZAN DEPARTMENT

CAPITAL COULD THEN BE ATTACKED AND SEIZED. GIVEN THIS
SCENARIO, THE GUERRILLAS WOULD CONTROL SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS
OF EASTERN ES AND WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO

TO DECLARE THE AREA LIBERATED AND

REQUEST RECOGNITION FROM THEIR INTERNATIONAL "FRIENDS."
(3) THEATER OF OPERATIONS: IN AN EFFORT TO STEER THIS
DETERIORATING SITUATION THE AFGS HAS DECIDED TO CREATE
A "THEATER OF OPERATIONS" IN EASTERN ES COMPRISING USULU-
TAN, SAN MIGUEL, MORAZAN, AND LA UNION DEPARTMENTS (3RD
AND 6TH BDE AREAS). CONCERNED WITH DECLINING MORALE IN
GOTERA AND THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE PREVIOUS DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER, LTC LIZANDRO ((TEPEDA)) VELASCO, THE AFGS
BT

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

NOFORN
SUBJ: EL SALVADOR/AFGS ESTABLISHES
IN EASTERN DEPARTMENTS; COMMANDO
CENTER HAS A NEW COMMANDER(U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTRY: EL SALVADOR (ES)
2. (U) IN MORAZAN
3. (U) IN MORAZAN
IN EASTERN DEPARTMENTS: COMMANDO CENTER HAS NEW COM-
MANDER (U)

4. (U) DATE OF INFO: 821100
5. (U) ORIG: (b)(3):10 USC 424
6. (U) (b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)
7. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

8. (C) DUE TO A GROWING UNHAPPINESS WITH THE WAR EFFORT
IN MORAZAN AND LA UNION DEPARTMENTS, THE AFGS HAS DECIDED
TO CREATE A "THEATER OF OPERATIONS" IN EASTERN ES UNDER
THE COMMAND OF COL JAIME ERNESTO ((FLORES)), THE 3RD BDE
COR. THE ATCHM. BN IS TO BE MOVED, TEMPORARILY, FROM
USULUTAN TO LA UNION TO SHORE UP THE EFFORT THERE. ALSO,
IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONAL EFFORT IN MORAZAN,

ACTION
INFO

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10
USC 424

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~~THEATER-ESTABLISHED. WHILE THE MOVE MAKES SENSE TACTI-
CALLY, IT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FROM A "POLITICAL" STAND-
POINT WITHIN THE ESAF AS THE POWER BASE OF SEVERAL OF THE
DEPARTMENTAL COMMANDERS WOULD BE DIMINISHED WHILE THAT
OF COL FLORES WOULD BE INCREASED.~~

(2) THE TRANSFER OF LTC ZEPEDA BACK TO THE NATIONAL GUARD
AFTER FIVE SHORT MONTHS OF COMMAND IN MORAZAN IS SOMEWHAT
OUT OF THE ORDINARY. COMMANDERS ARE RARELY RELIEVED
WITHIN THE ESAF FOR MILITARY REASONS; RELIEF FOR INTERNAL
"POLITICAL" REASONS ARE MORE COMMON (SEE FOR EXAMPLE

(b)(3):10 USC 424 THE RELIEF OF ZEPEDA, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE
BEEN AIDED BY THE FACT THAT HE HAD NOT WANTED THE COMMAND
AT GOTERA IN THE FIRST PLACE. WAS UNHAPPY WITH HIS
ASSIGNMENT THERE, AND THUS WAS LESS THAN RESPONSIVE TO
AFGS DIRECTIVES AND GUIDANCE. THE PLACEMENT OF COL
FLORES' FORMER EXECUTIVE OFFICER AS COMMANDER IN MORAZAN
MAY WELL FACILITATE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A THEATER OF
OPERATIONS IN THE AREA IF, IN FACT, THE DECISION HAS BEEN
MADE.

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

FEEL THAT COL FLORES, WHO ENJOYS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION
AS 3RD BDE CDR, WOULD BE ABLE TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND
IN MORAZAN, AND LA UNION. AS PART OF THIS PLAN, THE
ATONAL BN IS TO BE DEPLOYED FROM USULUTAN TO LA UNION IN
AN EFFORT TO REVERSE GUERRILLA SUCCESSES THERE.

(b)(1); (b)(3):50
USC 3024(i);
Sec. 1.4(c)

(4) NEW COMMANDER: LTC ACEVEDO, WHO HAD BEEN THE 3RD BDE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF MORAZAN DEPARTMENT
AND THE COMMAND CENTER AT GOTERA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.

~~THE TRANSFER OF LTC ZEPEDA FROM
MORAZAN BACK TO THE NATIONAL GUARD WAS A RELIEF (RELIEVED)
DUE TO HIS POOR PERFORMANCE AND UNWILLINGNESS TO RESPOND
TO DIRECTIVES FROM THE AFGS. READ COL RAFAEL
FLORES-LINA, CHIEF OF STAFF, AFGS.~~

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC
3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1); (b)(3):50
USC 3024(i);
Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(3):10
USC 424

(5) NEAR TERM STRATEGY: ~~THAT THE AFGS
WAS ATTEMPTING TO DECIDE WHAT STRATEGY IT SHOULD FOLLOW
DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, I.E. COMMIT FORCES TO
STATIC DEFENSE OF KEY ECONOMIC AREAS TO PROTECT COFFEE,
COTTON AND SUGAR HARVESTS OR LAUNCH AN ALL OUT OFFENSIVE
AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS TO DENY THEIR CONTROL OF THE
NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.~~ ~~THE~~
SIZE OF THE ESAF WOULD PERMIT IT TO FOLLOW ONE STRATEGY
OR THE OTHER AS IT COULD NOT DO BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY.
9B. (S&MOFORM) -ENTIRE TEXT CONF/MOFORM- ORIG,CHTS:

(1) THE IDEA OF CREATING A THEATER OF OPERATIONS IN
EASTERN ES HAS BEEN FLOATING AROUND THE AFGS FOR ABOUT
TWO WEEKS. IT HAD BEEN NO MORE THAN THAT, AN IDEA.
THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE
AND THE THEATER OF OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE
COMMAND OF COL FLORES. ~~UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT
THE DECISION HAS IN FACT BEEN MADE, ORDER ISSUED, AND THE~~

(b)(1); (b)(3):50
USC 3024(i);
Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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