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SUBJECT: NICARAGUA/EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE, 6/20 - 6/26

I. FOLLOWING BETWEEN TEAR LINES IS THE NICARAGUA AND-EL SALVADOR TACTICAL UPDATE FOR 20 - 26 JUNE 1985. IT MAY BE SHARED [redacted] 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 20 - 26 JUNE 1985

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OVERVIEW

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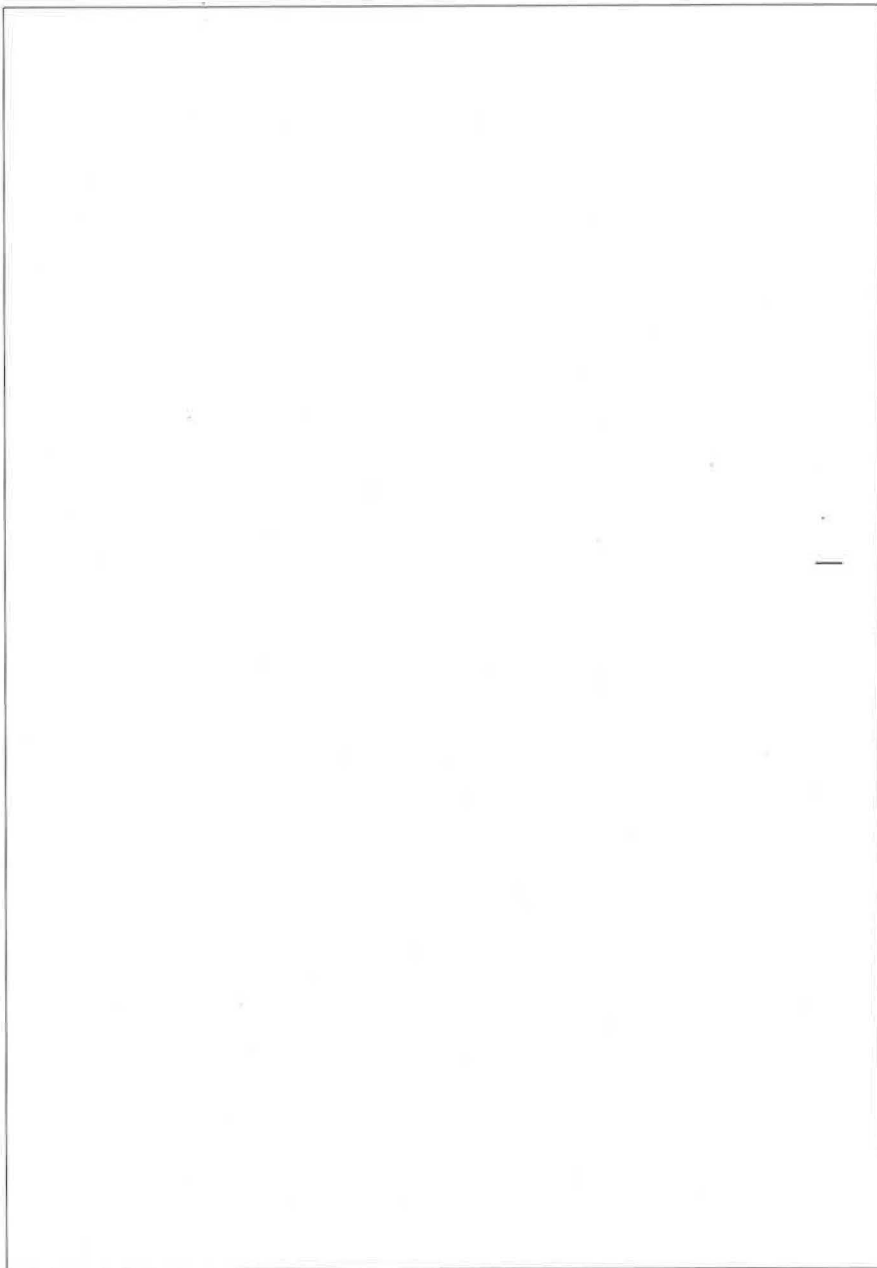
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EL SALVADOR

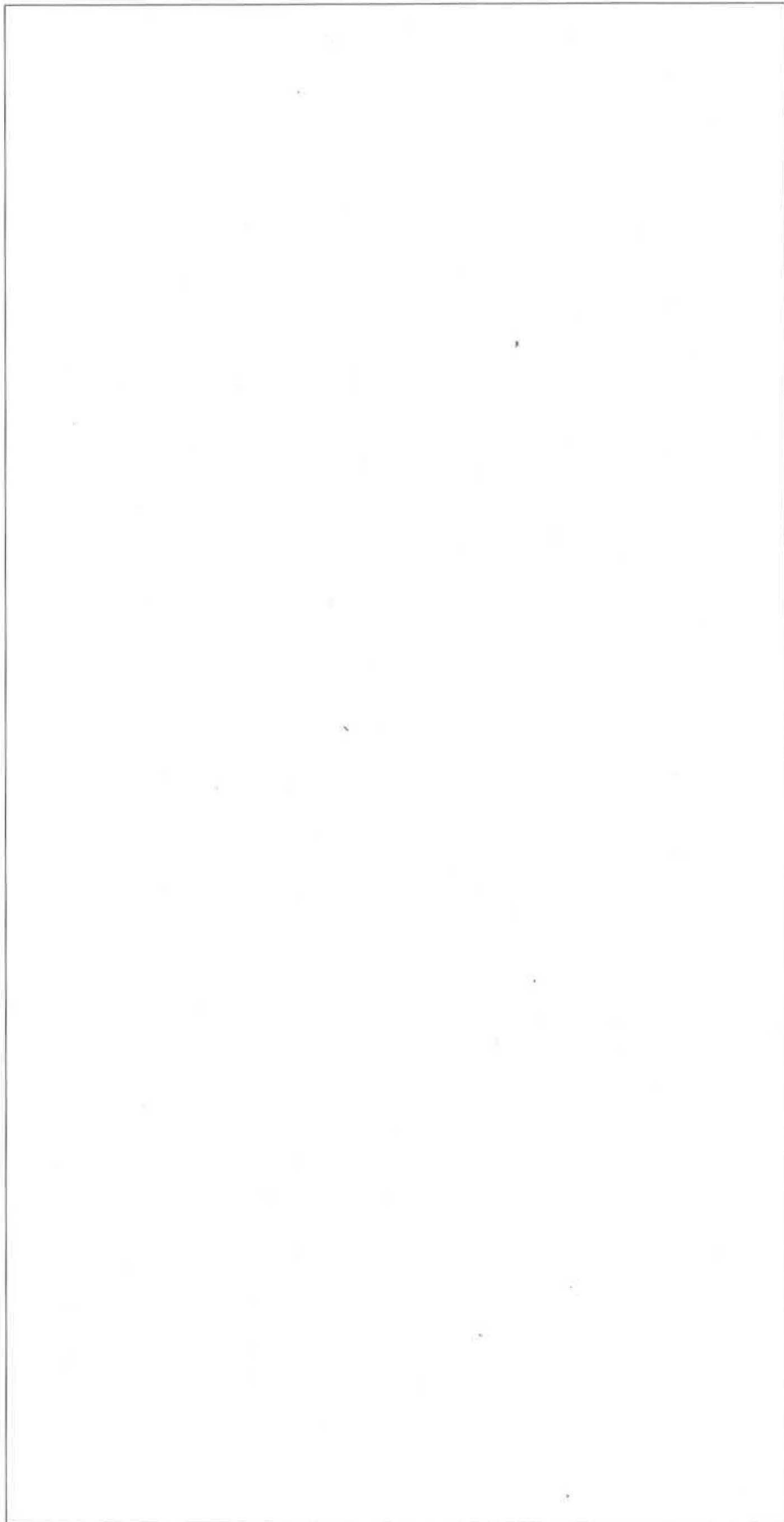
THREE IMMEDIATE REACTION BATTALIONS AND FOUR SMALLER ANTI-TERRORIST BATTALIONS ARE AMONG THE GOVERNMENT FORCES PARTICIPATING IN TWO LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHEAST AND IN CENTRAL EL SALVADOR. MEANWHILE, THE GUERRILLAS HAVE WARNED THAT LAST WEEK'S KILLING OF US MARINES AND SOME CIVILIANS IS A HARBINGER OF INCREASING REBEL RELIANCE ON TERRORIST TACTICS. THERE WAS NO ADDITIONAL REPORTING ON CUBAN OR NICARAGUAN ASSISTANCE TO THE INSURGENTS.



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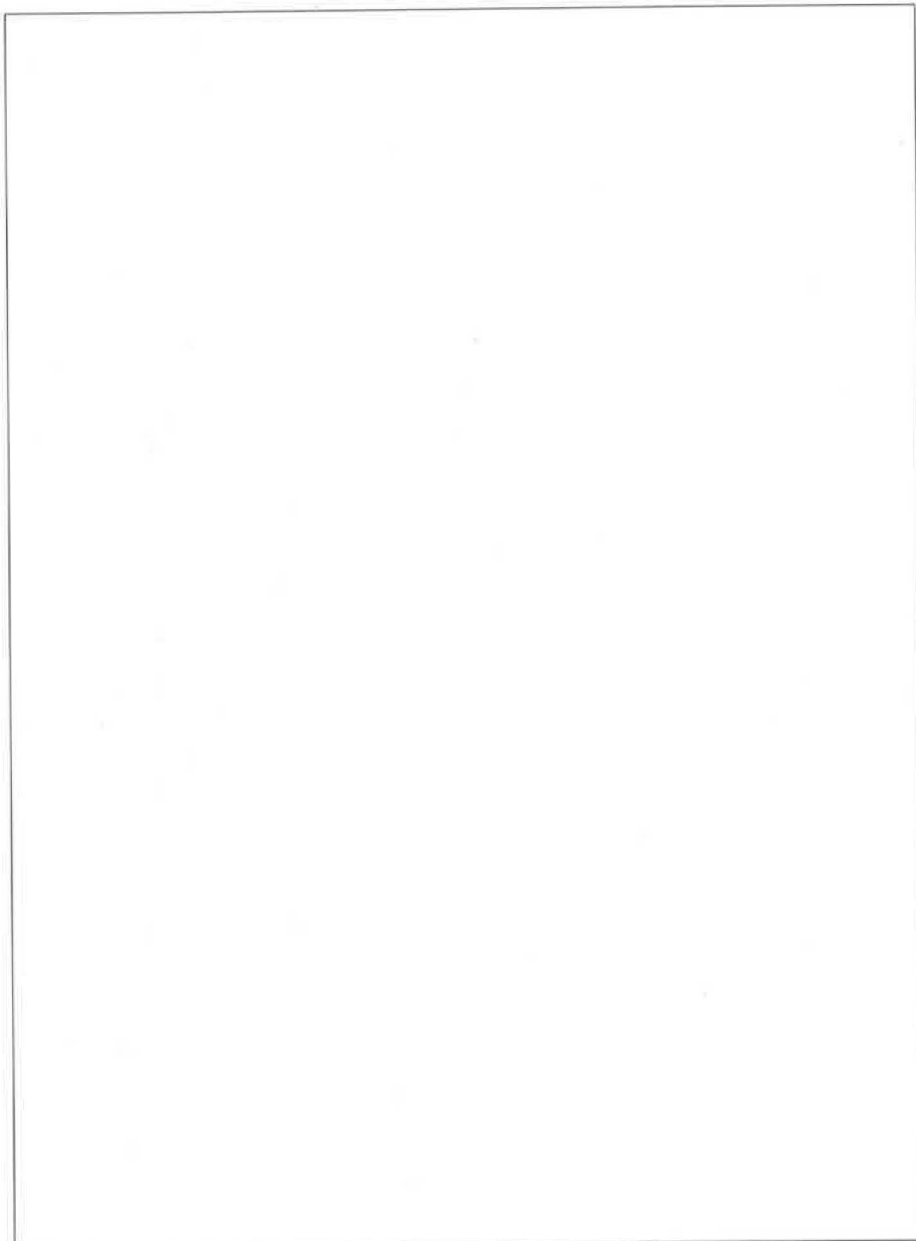
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SALVADORAN DEVELOPMENTS

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT OPERATION THAT BEGAN TWO WEEKS AGO IN NORTHERN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED INTO SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENT, BUT CONTINUES TO GENERATE LITTLE CONTACT WITH GUERRILLAS.



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THE ELITE ARCE

BATTALION IS NOW OPERATING IN NORTHERN SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENT, WHILE TWO SMALLER ANTI-TERRORIST BATTALIONS CONTINUE OPERATIONS TO THE EAST, IN MORAZAN DEPARTMENT.

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[REDACTED] SAYS THE OPERATION IN NORTHERN MORAZAN HAS RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF EIGHT M-16 RIFLES AND ABOUT 35 GUERRILLAS KILLED; THE LACK OF MINES AND THE LARGE AMOUNT OF FOODSTUFFS AND DOCUMENTS FOUND IN THE AREA, INCLUDING AT TWO DESERTED INDOCTRINATION CAMPS, INDICATE THE REBELS' HASTY DEPARTMENT FROM THE REGION. (~~S~~ NF)

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[REDACTED] IN TEGUCIGALPA REPORTS THAT THE HONDURANS WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT SALVADORAN MILITARY OPERATIONS NEAR THEIR BORDER IN NORTHERN MORAZAN, DESPITE EARLIER PLANNING FOR SUCH COORDINATION; ONLY A CHANCE ENCOUNTER MADE THE HONDURANS AWARE OF THE SALVADORAN PRESENCE IN THE AREA, BUT TEGUCIGALPA'S REACTION SO FAR HAS BEEN SUBDUED. (~~S~~ NF)

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THE ARMY BEGAN ANOTHER MAJOR OPERATION -- ROBLAR II -- ON 18 JUNE, IN NORTHERN SAN SALVADOR, NORTHERN CUSCATLAN, AND WESTERN CABANAS DEPARTMENTS.

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--ACCORDING TO THE [REDACTED], PARTICIPATING UNITS INCLUDE THE ELITE BELLOSÓ AND ATLCATL BATTALIONS AND TWO ANTI-TERRORIST BATTALIONS.

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--AN INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE REBELS CLAIMS THAT SOME 60 ARMED INSURGENTS ARE IN ONE OF THE AREAS OF OPERATION AND ARE PREPARED TO SURRENDER TO THE ARMED FORCES.

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GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

THE UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK IN THE ZONA ROSA AREA OF SAN SALVADOR LAST WEEK THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF CIVILIANS AND FOUR US MARINES IS A HARBINGER OF INCREASING INSURGENT RELIANCE ON TERRORIST TACTICS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, US PERSONNEL, AND THE SALVADORAN MIDDLE CLASS.

--THE ATTACK HAS BEEN HERALDED IN RADIOBROADCASTS BY THE UMBRELLA GUERRILLA COALITION AS A TASTE OF MORE TO COME.

--ONE OF FIVE REBEL FACTIONS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY AND THREATENING FURTHER ACTION AGAINST US TARGETS.

--GUERRILLAS ALSO ATTACKED A GOVERNMENT MOTORCADE LAST SUNDAY IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT; SEVERAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER AND THE COMMANDER OF THE 4TH BRIGADE, OCHOA, REPORTEDLY ESCAPED UNHARMED. (U)

OTHERWISE, GUERRILLA ACTIONS REMAINED RELATIVELY LOWSCALE AND FEW IN NUMBER, WHILE KEY INSURGENTS CONTINUED TO DEFECT.

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[REDACTED] SHOWS SABOTAGE ACTIVITY IN SAN MIGUEL AND CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENTS, A FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENT IN SOUTHERN SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENT, AND SMALL CLASHES IN NORTHEASTERN MORAZAN AND LA UNION DEPARTMENTS.

--A FORMER CAPTAIN WHO WAS SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE SPECIAL SELECT FORCES OF THE LARGEST REBEL ACTION SAID HE HAD THOUGHT OF DESERTING FOR A LONG TIME BUT WAS AFRAID HE WOULD BE KILLED IF HE SURRENDERED; HE WAS PERSUADED TO DEFECT AFTER HEARING THE RADIROADCASTS OF A FORMER TOP REBEL COMMANDER.

--ANOTHER DEFECTOR, FORMERLY POLITICAL-PROPAGANDA CHIEF IN ONE OF THE SMALLEST GUERRILLA GROUPS, SAID MOST NEW REBEL RECRUITS ARE POORLY MOTIVATED AND LACK A STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO THE INSURGENT CAUSE. ~~AS~~
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