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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 17 DECEMBER 1991.

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1. HAITI: MILITARY SHOWING FLEXIBILITY [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

1. HAITI: MILITARY SHOWING FLEXIBILITY [REDACTED]

SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY ALLOW PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S CONDITIONAL RETURN TO HAITI, BUT THEIR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN SUCH SUPPORT IN THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE TESTED SOON. [REDACTED]

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT ENLISTED TROOPS WOULD ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S REINSTATEMENT IF A NEW GOVERNMENT, LED BY CENTRIST MARC BAZIN OR POSSIBLY LEFTIST RENE THEODORE AS PRIME MINISTER, IS INSTALLED AND FUNCTIONING INDEPENDENTLY BEFOREHAND. [REDACTED] POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, WHO IS POPULAR WITH THE TROOPS AND VEHEMENTLY ANTI-ARISTIDE, TOLD [REDACTED] HOWEVER, THAT BAZIN IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE "COMPLETELY" ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARMY. MOREOVER, REGIME OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IF ARISTIDE REJECTS BAZIN. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: IF LEGISLATORS BACK AWAY FROM BAZIN OR TALKS DRAG ON, MILITARY SUPPORT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WOULD ERODE SHARPLY. RIVALRIES AMONG UNITS CONTINUE, AND MOST ENLISTED TROOPS STILL DISTRUST OFFICERS, WHO THEY EARLIER SUSPECTED WERE READY TO ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S IMMEDIATE RETURN. [REDACTED] CEDRAS BELIEVES HE EVENTUALLY CAN PERSUADE THE TROOPS TO ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S RETURN; HE CANNOT YET ORDER THEM TO DO SO. [REDACTED]

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