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[REDACTED] FAIRLY WELL OUTLINE THE BACKGROUND ON THE MICHAEL ((DEVINE)) AND EFRAIN ((BAMACA)) VELASQUEZ CASES; THE TWO MOST CELEBRATED HUMAN RIGHTS CASES AT PLAY IN GUATEMALA TODAY. ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CASE OF NOTE INVOLVES THE 1990 KILLING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MYRNA ((MACK)). MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE INCLUDE THE SUPREME COURT'S CONFIRMATION OF THE TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SENTENCE GIVEN TO THE ASSASSIN, A FORMER GOVERNMENT SECURITY OFFICIAL. THE COURT ALSO LEFT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OPEN AGAINST SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS WHO ARE LARGELY VIEWED AS THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF THE MURDER.

THE THRUST OF CURRENT USG EFFORTS IN GUATEMALA IS TO PRESSURE BOTH ARMY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO PURSUE IN GOOD FAITH THE RESOLUTION OF PENDING HUMAN RIGHTS CASES SUCH AS DEVINE AND BAMACA. PRESIDENT ((DE LEON)) AND GUATEMALAN MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE TAKEN DELIBERATE STEPS TO EFFECT REFORM WITHIN RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS IN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND END IRREGULAR PRACTICES SANCTIONED IN THE PAST. [REDACTED] STATEMENT REGARDING "CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ON BEHALF OF THE MILITARY" MOST LIKELY REFERS TO - (1) THE POLICY OF FORCED RECRUITMENT BY THE MILITARY, (2) EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITARY-SUPPORTED CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS (PACS). THESE TWO ISSUES HAVE BEEN THE FOCUS OF MUCH PUBLIC DEBATE. PRESENTLY, PROGRAMS OF FORCED RECRUITMENT ARE NO LONGER ACTIVE. HOWEVER, PAC ACTIVITIES HAVE YET TO BE FULLY CONTROLLED DUE TO THEIR UTILITY TO THE

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GUATEMALAN ARMY IN COMBATING ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN
OUTLYING AREAS WHERE THERE IS VERY LITTLE OR NO MILITARY
PRESENCE.

THE THIRTY PLUS YEAR INSURGENCY CONTINUES WHEREBY
BOTH GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNION (URNG)
INSURGENTS AND GUATEMALAN ARMY PERSONNEL SUFFER CASUALTIES
ON AN ALMOST WEEKLY BASIS. AS A RESULT, PRESSURE FROM
HARDLINE ARMY PERSONNEL WHO OPPOSE URNG AND INTERNATIONAL
DEMANDS AT THE ONGOING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS LEND SUPPORT TO
THE ARMY LEADERSHIP'S POSITION OF NOT REVEALING POSSIBLY
DAMAGING DETAILS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN QUESTION,
WHICH IN TURN WOULD AID THE URNG AIM TO DISCREDIT THE
ARMY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP REALIZES
IT MUST CONTINUE REFORM EFFORTS, COME TO TERMS WITH THE
URNG AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND MORE EFFECTIVELY TURN
FOCUS TOWARDS CREATING A POST-INSURGENCY GUATEMALAN ARMY.
THE URNG LEADERSHIP BASED IN MEXICO HAS BEEN VERY
SUCCESSFUL IN CONVEYING THEIR POSITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY AND USING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AS A
NEGOTIATIONS PLOY. AS OF LATE HOWEVER, UNITED NATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS HAVE CRITICIZED THE URNG LEADERSHIP
FOR REBUFFING RECENT GOOD FAITH EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE
GOVERNMENT PEACE COMMISSION.

IN SUM, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO
BE COMMITTED BY BOTH THE GUATEMALAN SECURITY FORCES AND
URNG GROUPS. IN THE CURRENT POLITICALLY CHARGED
ENVIRONMENT, THE ARMY WILL, IN ALL PROBABILITY, NEVER ALLOW
FULL DISCLOSURE OF SELECTED HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. IN THEIR
EYES, THIS WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO ALL OUT INTERNATIONAL
CRITICISM OF THE INSTITUTION AND EVENTUALLY, ITS DEMISE.
STATION WELCOMES FURTHER HQS CLARIFICATION ON THESE
TOPICS.

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