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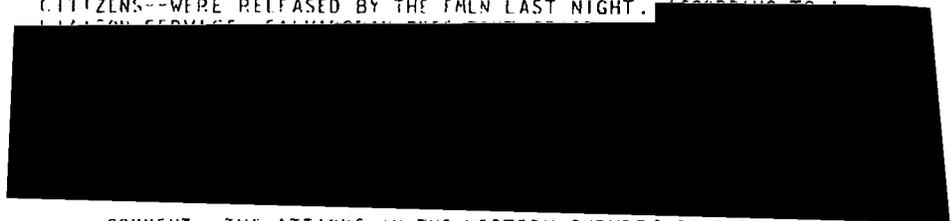
1. EL SALVADOR: SITUATION REPORT

2. IN BRIEFS

1. EL SALVADOR: SITUATION REPORT

HOSTAGE SITUATION

12 US MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN BARRICADED IN THE SHERATON HOTEL, FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S HOSTAGE CRISIS. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER INSURGENTS ARE STILL ON THE PREMISES, BUT ALL REMAINING CIVILIAN HOSTAGES--INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE US CITIZENS--WERE RELEASED BY THE FMLN LAST NIGHT.



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COMMENT: THE ATTACKS IN THE WESTERN SUBURBS PROBABLY WERE INTENDED TO BRING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT BY

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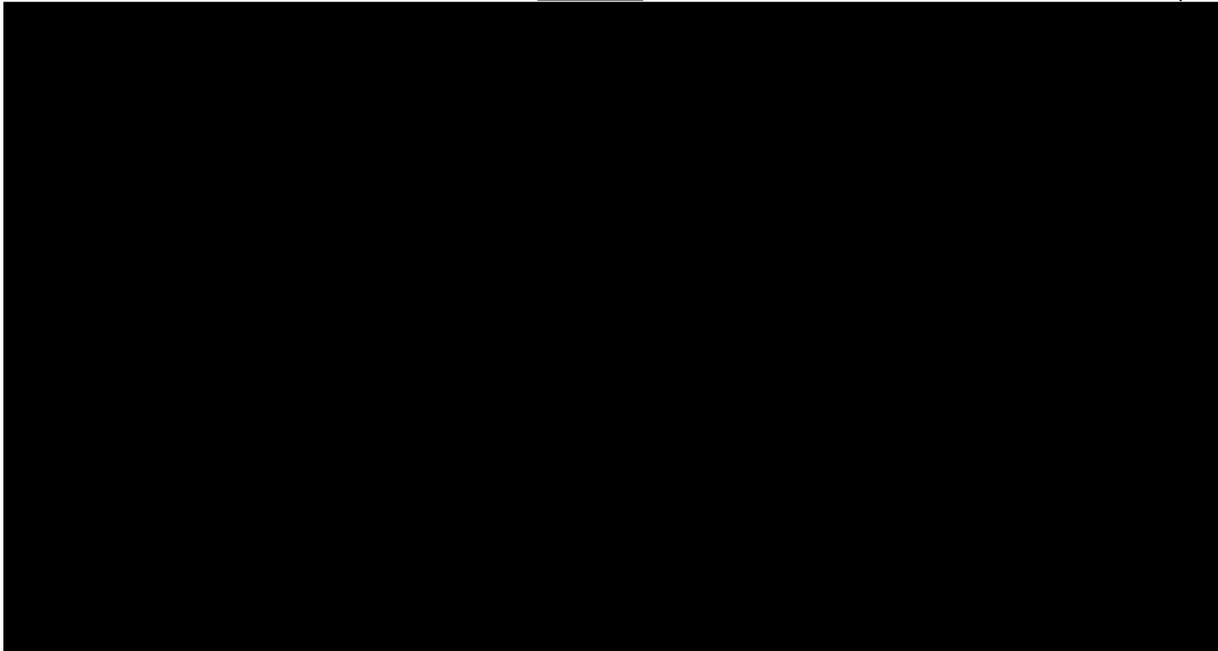
DISPENSING EL SALVADOR'S ELITE. THE REBEL'S DECISION TO SEIZE THE HOTEL, WHERE THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL WAS STAYING, PROVED TO BE A PUBLIC-RELATIONS BLUNDER; IT THREATENS TO UNDERCUT FMLN EFFORTS TO RALLY INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE FOR A CEASE-FIRE. THE PRE-POSITIONING OF MUNITIONS NEAR THE HOTEL SUGGESTS THAT THE SHERATON WAS THE PRIMARY TARGET OF YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING. THE ATTACK ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF ROGUE GUERRILLA ELEMENTS, AS FMLN COMMAND AND CONTROL CAPABILITIES IN THE CAPITAL PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED DURING THIS WEEK'S OFFENSIVE. WITH THE FAILURE OF THEIR MILITARY OFFENSIVE, FMLN LEADERS MAY INCREASINGLY TURN TO TERRORISM IN AN EFFORT TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

MILITARY SITUATION



[REDACTED] SOME 1,000 TO 1,500 SALVADORAN REFUGEES LEFT THEIR CAMP IN HONDURAS AND ENTERED MORAZAN DEPARTMENT ON SUNDAY. MEANWHILE, THE ARMY CONTINUES TO DETAIN AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS--INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE NICARAGUAN--CHARGING THAT THEY HAVE AIDED THE REBELS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MORAZAN IS THE PRINCIPAL REBEL BASE AREA, INSURGENT CONTROL OVER THE REGION HAS ERODED OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THE FMLN CAN SEIZE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AT SAN FRANCISCO. REFUGEES HAVE UNILATERALLY REPATRIATED WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE UN AND ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HELP SUPPORT THE INSURGENT EFFORT IN MORAZAN. DESPITE THE CAPTURE OF THE NICARAGUAN CITIZEN, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT MANAGUA IS DISPATCHING COMBATANTS TO EL SALVADOR. [REDACTED]



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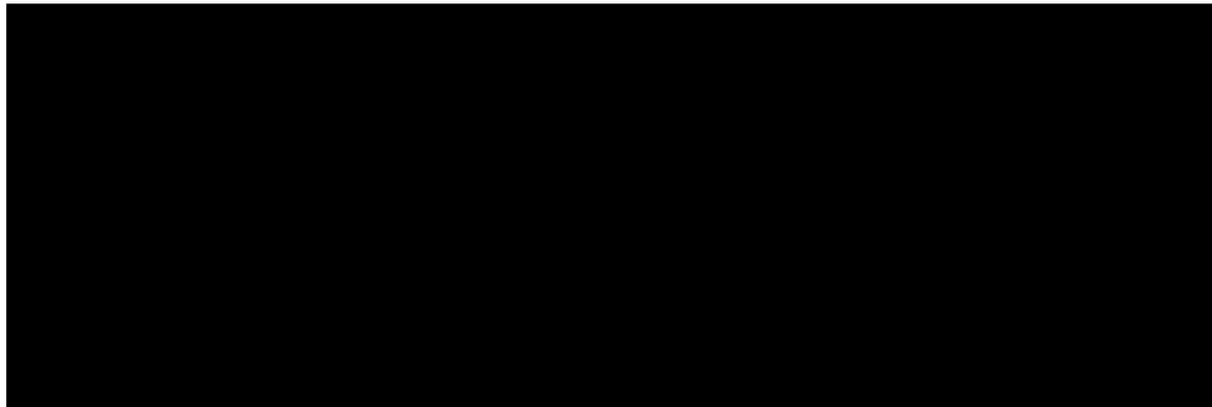
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