



Director of Central Intelligence

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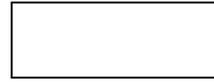
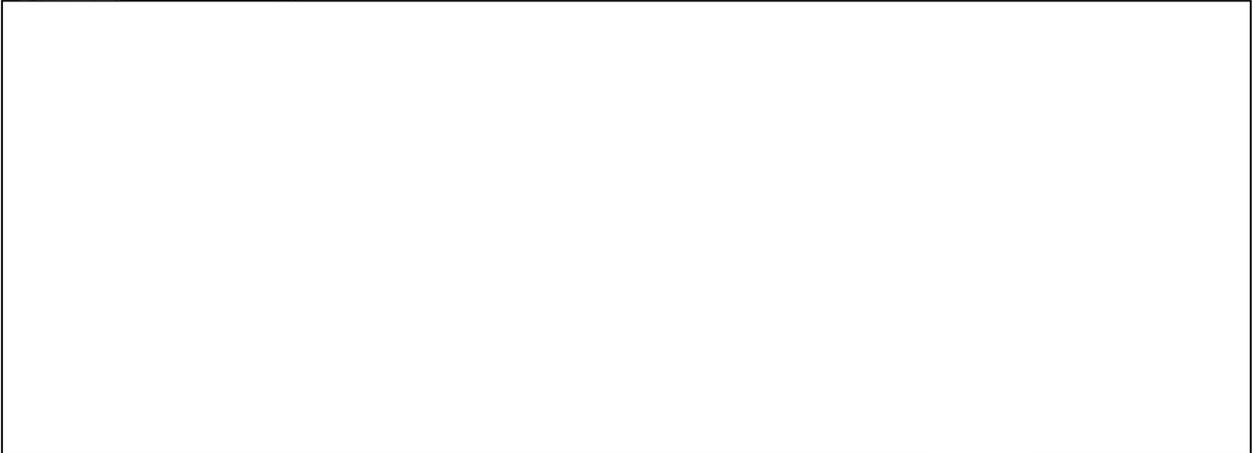


Table of Contents

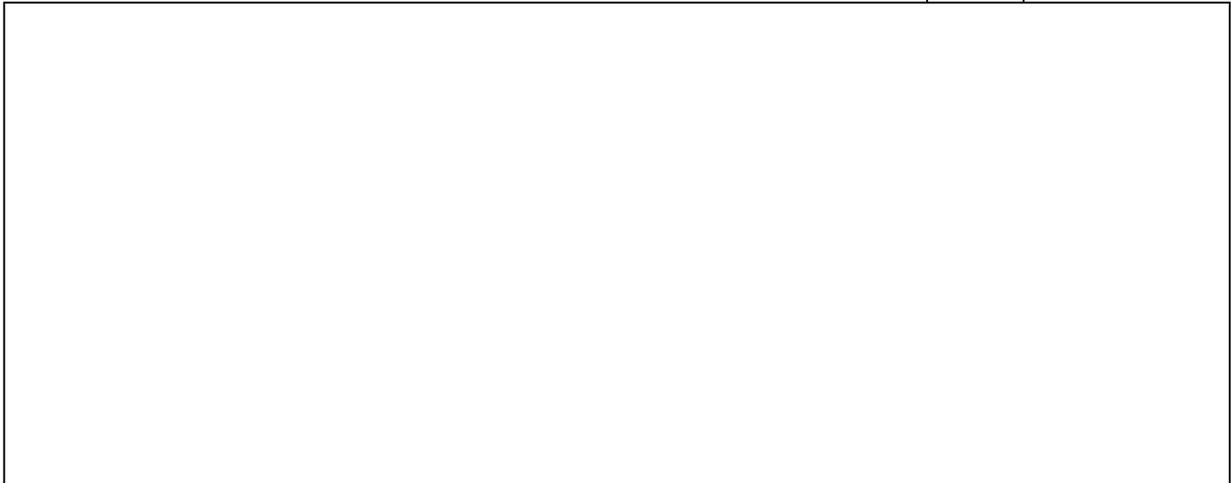
Situation Report

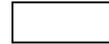


Mexico: EZLN Protests Try Government's Patience



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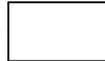




AMERICAS (continued)

Mexico:

EZLN Protests Try Government's Patience



Unarmed Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) rebels yesterday briefly occupied two radio stations to denounce prison sentences recently given to two alleged EZLN members and publicly threatened additional takeovers. Press reports say a congressional committee that is helping facilitate the Chiapas peace process is trying to broker a legal or political formula for overturning the controversial judgments. ***Government tolerance for Zapatista posturing appears to have worn thin, however.***

- Secretary of Government Chuayffet warned the Zapatistas that carrying out their threat to withdraw from peace talks would nullify the amnesty law prohibiting the arrest of EZLN leaders still at large, including rebel chief Marcos.



Further EZLN high-profile protests may discourage Mexico City from appearing to yield to Zapatista pressure, and clashes between government troops and rebel demonstrators would increase the chances that peace talks will be delayed or suspended.

- ***The militarily weak EZLN, however, will hesitate to withdraw formally from the talks and risk provoking more aggressive government action.***

