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27 May 1980

Latin America Report

(FOUO 12/80)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COMMUNIST PARTIES DENOUNCE U.S. ACTIONS

PA071754 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1640 GMT 4 May 80

[Text] San Jose, 4 May (PL)--The communist parties of Central America, Mexico and Panama have expressed their complete support for the national revolutionary coordinating board of the masses of El Salvador as the only and indisputable leader of the Salvadoran people. A communique published in the latest number of the weekly LIBERTAD stated that the communist parties also support the democratic revolutionary front as the only organization which represents all the revolutionary, democratic, progressive and patriotic people of El Salvador.

They rejected the interventionist policy of the United States and of the reactionary governments of the region and repudiated the "criminal policy of extermination of the civilian population, labor leaders, peasants and religious persons." They emphasized that "the treacherous murder of Monsignor Arnulfo Romero was the culmination of the criminal policy with which the Salvadoran oligarchy wants to stop the struggle of the Salvadoran people."

The declaration urged all nations of the world to declare their solidarity with all forms of struggle of the Salvadoran people to isolate and defeat the government junta, to save the lives of those who die every day, to stop the interventionist plans of the United States and to help in the inevitable victory of the people. "The fascist and reactionary sectors of the army, the government junta and rightist sectors of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party have unleashed a campaign of savage extermination against the popular movement and against the civilian population," said the communist parties of Central America, Mexico and Panama.

They added that this repression is being waged with the most modern counter-insurgency measures provided by U.S. imperialism, which is threatening open military intervention to prevent the establishment of a democratic and revolutionary government. They claim that "this policy is part of the return to the cold war and a policy of military blackmail promoted by the U.S. Government which is threatening the democratic and revolutionary progress made in Central America and the Caribbean."

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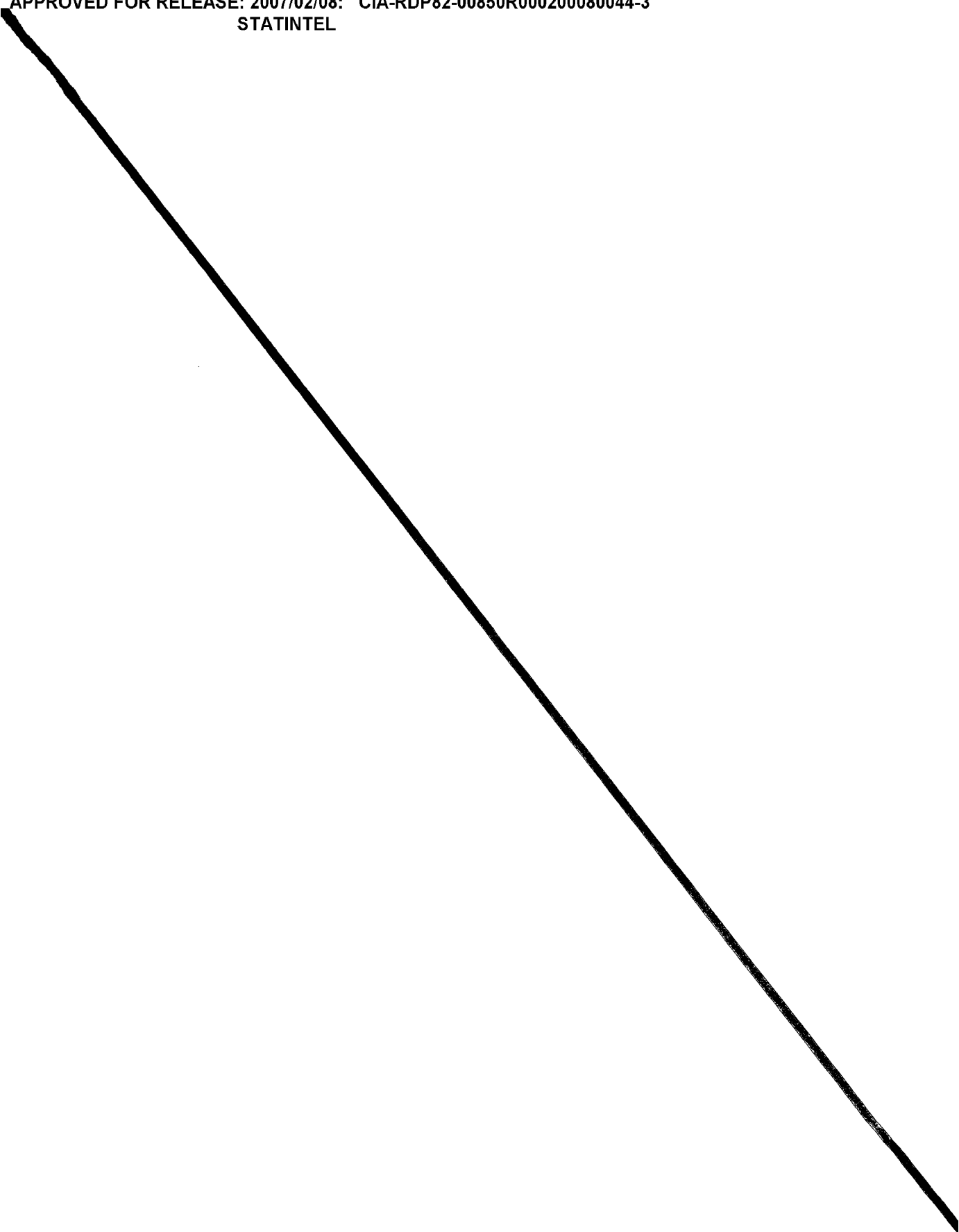
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The communist parties denounced the complicity of "the most reactionary sectors of Venezuela's Christian Democratic Party and the governments of Guatemala and Honduras. They also denounced (U.S.) preparations to use the military resources of its bases in Panama and Puerto Rico" in this planned intervention.

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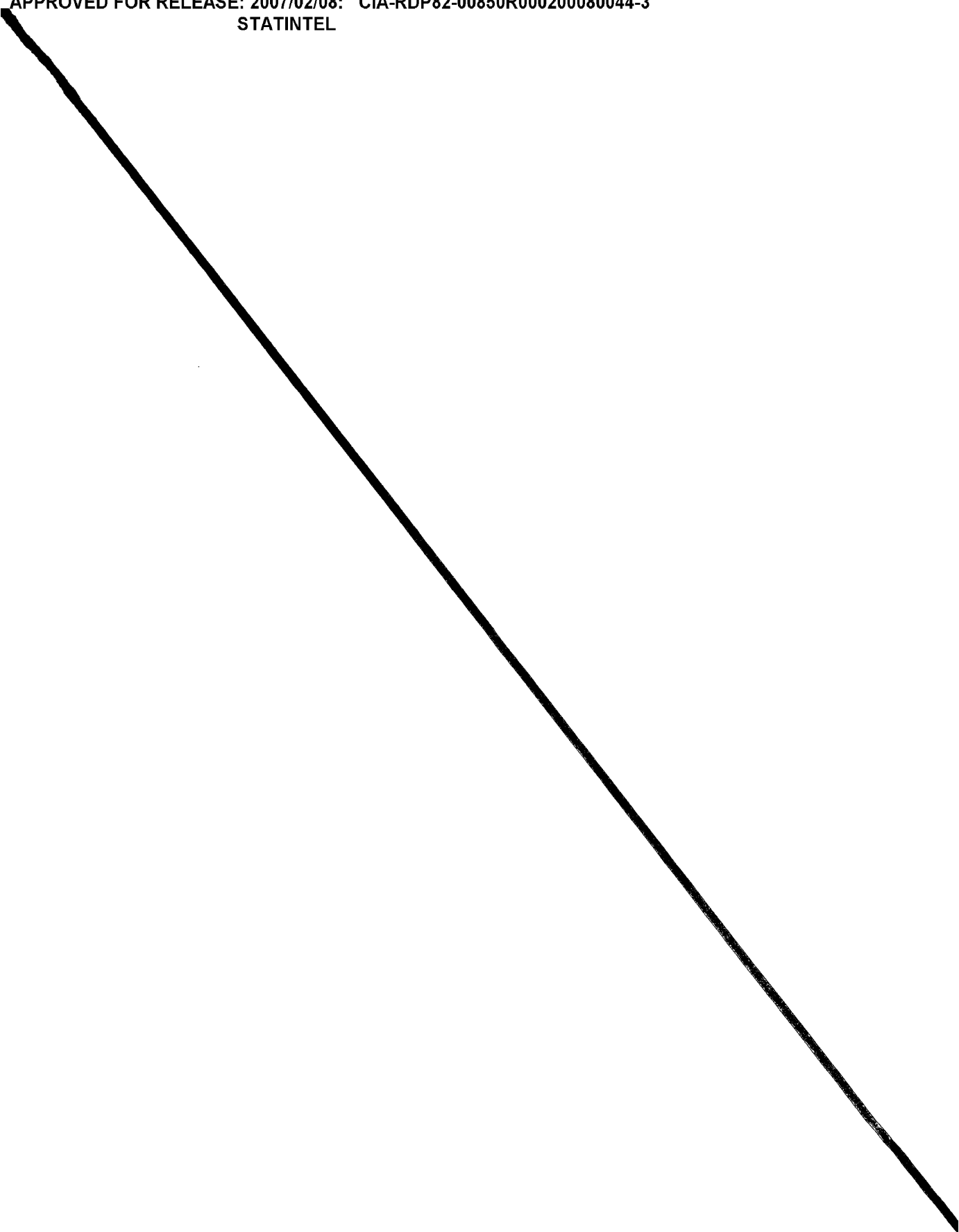
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COLOMBIA

BOGOTA REVOLUTIONARIES JUSTIFY RESPONSE TO 'OFFICIAL TERROR'

LD081121 Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 27 Apr 80 pp 83-89

[Interview with 19 April Movement (M-19) leaders, by Jose Fajardo, in Bogota: "Terror and Revolution"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] But what is the opinion of M-19 itself about all this? In the La Picota Central Penitentiary in Bogota, we have met with several members of M-19's national leadership: Ivan Marino Ospina, Alvaro Fayad Delgado, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, Israel Santamaria Rendon, Andres Alrales Manga, Helmer Marin and Afranio Parra. Previously authorized by the entire national leadership, they answered the questions put by CAMBIO 16 correspondent Jose Fajardo.

[Question] What is M-19? What is its ideology?

[Answer] "M-19 is a democratic, nationalist, revolutionary and patriotic organization," Ivan Marino Ospina explained. "Democratic inasmuch as it is a response of the revolutionary state to the oligarchic and militarist conduct of the traditional parties. Democratic, because it advocates real and thorough participation by all Colombians in determining their destiny--participation in the country's economic, political, cultural and social life. Nationalist, because it aspires to an economic development whose central aim will be to satisfy the Colombian nation's needs, contrary to what is happening at present, when we have an economy which is being managed in accordance with the interests of the monopolies and the multinationals. Nationalist because it aspires to replacing the current dependence by an independent and autonomous management of our economy and of our life as a sovereign and free nation. Revolutionary in the sense that it believes that democracy, freedom and independence for our country will not be possible without a radical change in economic and political relations inside and outside the country. Last, our M-19 is patriotic inasmuch as it is inspired by our own people's struggles, sinking its roots in Colombian history."

[Question] What changes has M-19 experienced from its foundation to the present? What is its "prehistory?"

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[Answer] "We have experienced the characteristic and natural changes of an organization immersed in a society which is as changing, as rapidly changing, as ours," Alvaro Fayad replied. "Our 'prehistory' is our country's history. We are a young organization, but note in what historical situation we originated; we emerged precisely at the end of the national front (a 20-year alliance of liberals and conservatives to share out the government and administration), and our name recalls 20 April 1970, when the opposition won the elections but, as a result of the absence of a political leadership and of a military force, the oligarchy rigged the elections with impunity. This means that we are the outcome of and at the same time embody the last few years of political and social struggle in our country. We stand between two events which characterize the Colombian oligarchy's highly individual way of resolving social and political problems. When popular liberal leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan embodied the antioligarchic feeling and was the certain electoral victor, he was assassinated 9 April 1948, and the oligarchy then unleashed la violencia, with its 300,000 deaths. Years later, when the national popular alliance embodied all the antioligarchic feeling and triumphed electorally, the monopoly oligarchy rigged the election. Between these two events and in the last few years, Colombia underwent la violencia and its 300,000 deaths, endured the national front, as an antidemocratic collusion between the two parties, and the revolutionary movement--the communist guerrillas of the Colombian revolutionary armed forces and the national liberation army, inspired by the Sierra Maestra--came into being. The monopolists always wish to imitate a foreign model; they are antinational. But our attention is drawn to the denationalized nature of certain revolutionary analysts, who are always seeking a foreign model--sometimes the model of Cuba, then that of Allende in Chile, and at other times the trend is Venezuela and the movement to socialism; suddenly it is the path of Uruguayanization, when it is not the Argentine model. Now the Montoneros, or the Tupamaros or the Sandinistas are the yardstick...and so ad infinitum. Anything, provided that they do not look at our conditions, our realities, our forces, our solutions, our paths. Certainly in some people's opinion, the best thing is not to be Macondo [allusion unknown]. On the other hand, as far as we are concerned, '100 Years of Solitude' remains one of our bedside books. We are a country called Colombia, with a cultural identity, a history and a development of its own. That is what our solutions will be: our own."

[Question] When you speak, you exude nationalism through every pore. However, President Turbay assured THE WASHINGTON POST that the attack on the embassy forms part of the sequence of terrorist attacks against the rule of law throughout the world. Are you acting in conjunction with subversive groups in other countries?

[Answer] "I repeat," Israel Santamaria replied, "that M-19 originated from our history, our people, our miseries and our hopes. The fact is that Turbay, the violator of all laws and codes, is seeking international support, just as he sought it with his absurd visit to Europe almost a year ago. And the reply has been the same--isolation. Today he is

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supported by others like him on the continent: Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador...; wherever there is a torturer in power, there Turbay has been supported. It is the historical destiny of injustice.

[Question] Could not actions such as that at the embassy provoke an unfavorable reaction on the part of this people whom you claim to represent and defend?

[Answer] "In the first place," Ivan Marino Ospina replied, "we do not represent the people; we are the people. It is no accident that in the opinion poll conducted by the Incoa University of Bogota (among people of differing positions, levels of education and social origin), 70 percent stated that M-19 is a nationalist and revolutionary force, rebutting the government, which seeks to present M-19 to the public as a terrorist movement. It is highly significant that in this opinion poll another 70 percent replied that the people who are imprisoned and being tried for rebellion are political prisoners and not common law criminals, as the government currently wishes to demonstrate.

[Question] Your actions--especially actions such as the seizure of the Dominican Embassy--are often taken as situations of terror. Are you--as you are officially accused of being--terrorists?

[Answer] "Terror is a constant factor in our people's everyday life," Israel Santamaria emphasized. "Our people live terrorized by illnesses which cannot be cured, because there is no medical service or drugs. There is terror with respect to unemployment, hunger, poverty and insecurity, in a country where you can no longer go about at night. But in addition to this everyday terror, this social terror, our country has for a long time experienced official terror."

"Terror will cease in Colombia when people are certain that there will be no raids in the early hours of the morning, or arbitrary arrests without the right to defense, or tortures, or labor union leaders arrested for defending their comrades, or people riddled with official bullets for taking part in a demonstration. In the final analysis, terror in politics is nothing other than the method which a minority employs to impose its domination over the majority--the method which prevails as a result of violence, panic and coercion. This is why we assert that this regime is a terrorist regime, because its methods are those of the security statute, arrests, torture and the murder of people's and labor union leaders."

[Question] Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has publicly stated that the government's stance is as follows: [words indistinct] which instructions of the government but on those of the competent judges. So what way out or solution can you see?

[Answer] "Our struggle is legitimate, and it is, moreover, lawful," Ivan Marino Ospina stated, "to the same extent that this regime is

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illegitimate and unlawful. Even former President Mario Echandia, whom they describe as the country's 'legal conscience,' stated a few weeks ago that there is no democracy here and that what exists is a dictatorship. In other words, we have a political right--the right of peoples to rebel against an unjust and oppressive regime. And we have a legal right. Uribe Vargas has hysterically cried out that there is no way out. On the other hand, the press has suggested several of these possibilities--an amnesty, pardon, nullifying the court martial, lifting the state of siege, international law.... So the government has sought to reduce the situation to an internal legal problem, but this is an insurrection--that is, there is something more: this is a basically political struggle."

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COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

BOOK ON EMBASSY OCCUPATION--Bogota, 5 May (PL)--The principal objective of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy was to denounce the violations of human rights and torture in Colombia, reaffirms the book "I Am Commander Uno" which has been published here. The book, from the "Black Sheep" Publishing House, includes telephone interviews made only hours after the beginning of the operation in which the guerrilla leader, Commander Uno, affirmed that the purpose of the occupation was to obtain "worldwide repercussions to demonstrate that there are political prisoners in Colombia and that they are being tortured." The book includes interviews with other M-19 leaders and Colombian personalities, a chronological record of the occupation and guerrilla and government documents. [Excerpts] [PA072116 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1710 GMT 5 May 80]

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CUBA

PERUVIAN EMBASSY SITUATION; LIFE UNDER CASTRO

Refugees: Waiting for Freedom

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 25 Apr 80 pp 32-39

[Text] There were some 10,800, packed into the mesh-bordered enclosure, hardly larger than half the size of a football field, which forms the garden of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. The smell is atrocious, for everyone is mired in filth under a burning sun. And water is scarce: it is distributed by [illegible]. But hope remains fierce. [Illegible] of them have already obtained the passport which should permit them to go to Peru or the United States. There are two opposing groups among the refugees. Some believe the Cuban authorities can be trusted and would agree to leave the refuge of the embassy, armed with a safe-conduct signed by them, and return home to await the blessed day of departure. Others maintain on the contrary that it is a trap. "Castro will never let you go," they say. "He will never forgive the affront you have given him." Among the refugees one could recognize simple rural folk who work in the sugar cane fields, soldiers who have torn off their uniforms and trampled them under foot, and members of the Communist Party. One of these militants says: "To my great surprise, I recognized among us a trustworthy man from our neighborhood, he was more active than any of us. We all took him for a real true believer." A son, whose father, a high official of the Party, was begging him to come back, replied: "Never! I've had enough of vegetating on starvation wages. I want to live free. Send my regards to 'your' revolution." The refugees never cease saying the word freedom. "Equality is a myth," they say, "but freedom really exists."

Castro's Only Reply: Insults

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 25 Apr 80 pp 32-39

[Text] All moved by the same spirit of highly organized popular indignation, the "working masses" and students in Havana schools demonstrate in front of the Peruvian Embassy, loudly insulting those of their compatriots who want to leave. They punctuate their slogans [with words like] "parasites", "anti-social," "homosexuals," sing the national anthem of Cuba, burn effigies symbolizing the "traitors to the revolution" and shout "out with earthworms!" The other day the refugees answered with insults. One said this: "Down

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with the bus drivers." In Havana they are hated: they stop on a whim, or depending on the time of day. The driver of a bus has become synonymous with "efficient parasite." The Cuban government, responding to the "provocations" of the reactionaries in the Peruvian Embassy, organized gigantic demonstrations on the anniversary of the Bay of Pigs, when Castro's forces on 19 April 1961 pushed back the attempt by 2,000 anti-communists to return by force.

Castro Myth Collapses

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 25 Apr 80 pp 32-39

[Text] It had everything going for it, this Cuban revolution which never had to come in from the cold but had unfolded under the coconut palms on an isle mounted in an azure sea. It was picturesque. It was unkempt. It was led by young and bearded leaders who came down out of the mountains firing their rifles and installing themselves, with boots on the table and olive green caps tilted back, in the ministries, where the inexhaustible palaver and victors' laughter of these new Pancho Villas exploded. It was a holiday as much as a revolution, and no leader was ever more romantic. Strapping, bearded, loquacious, a drinker, a lady's man, informal and relaxed, extremely jovial, a revolver pressed to his thigh, the cigar constantly burning, Fidel Castro--a prodigious actor--imposed on the world the image of a revolutionary pistolero with a big mouth and a big heart, who wanted only to hug to his great chest the children of the age and of the revolution. At his side, to perfect the romantic image of the spectacle, was always Che Guevara to add his fits and passions (soon enough dashed) to the volcanic excesses of the "maximum leader." The sunny revolution! The hurly-burly of brotherhood! That is what presented itself to us instead of stiff zombies lined up on the rostrum at Red Square in the deadly cold of Muscovy. The blood of the western intelligentsia (of the Left, you understand) was racing, its heart began to pound. It swooned for love and surrendered to the well-beloved "macho" of the revolution. Behold Fidel! He was born the new Messiah. Does it bring laughter, indignation, or a shrug of the shoulders to recall the ecstasies of our intellectuals? We can also put ourselves in the shoes of those unfortunates who, their horses exhausted by the race for Utopia, are still pinning their hopes on the appearance of a fresh team, and a driver with a human face to spur on the new nags groomed in the stables of socialism. And gee-up hor-sey! It was over Cuba that the star of socialism shone in the Sixties, that same star which would later shine down on Vietnam, China, a Portugal with the scent of carnations, Angola, Cambodia... An idyllic time of lyric illusion, with each new development cheered by "the left" in a western world drugged in comfort, remorse, and mythologies. Their noisy enthusiasm when (for example) the Cultural Revolution was raging in Peking, or when the Bo-Doi entered Saigon and the Khmers Rouges took Phnom Penh is still vividly alive in our memory. Afterwards, of course, it was different. No longer a time of lucidity, but one of sighs. "That is not what we wanted," wail the cuckolds, "oh no, that could not be true socialism!" But then what is socialism everywhere from Moscow to Peking, from Prague to Havana, from

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Algiers to Cambodia, from the Berlin Wall to the "gulag" isles of Cuba? Oh yes, we shall find out. The Borgia rule, the Church is corrupted, but God exists! When ideology becomes a religion, how do you get through to the devotees? "We see clearly," Mr Edmond Maire declares solemnly on television this week, "in the light of what is happening in Cuba, that genuine socialism is still to be created." Come on now! How obvious! Get off it, Edmond! Socialism slaughters freely today but, please, don't be discouraged, for tomorrow it will clean itself up. Incurable; uncleanable. I remember the pilgrimages. Our politicians and intellectuals going piously to make their genuflections at the Cuban Mecca. Childishly happy that Fidel honored them with his sonorous laugh and a slap on the shoulder that nearly knocked them over. We saw these hilarious spectacles of French intellectuals, mandarins to the tips of their fingers, who, out in a Jeep with the "Maximum Leader", went--yes, truly--to cut sugar cane. To give their names, to cite their articles, to recall their prophecies and ecstatic commentaries, would today come close to libel. Our lips are sealed. But it is a pity: some of those numerous gems are priceless.

In truth Castroism became purely and simply a Caribbean Stalinism; and Castro was so inflated by a cult of personality that he seemed to burst out of all his seams; and Cuba sank into economic chaos; and the island had its gulags; and the "Maximum Leader" was no more than a puppet whose strings were pulled by the Soviet Puppeteer; and Cuba, emaciated by want, oppressed by the police, constraint, and apathy, was no longer producing tobacco but instead mercenaries for Moscow. Some of us knew it and wrote it, but our words fell as blasphemies on the red or rose-colored coverlet of pious conformity spread on bed after bed by the myth of Fidel Castro. And there is more: many were those who continued to go be baptized in Havana. Mr [Georges] Marchais, of course, but then it is his own Church. Other pilgrims, socialists, had no hesitation in smoking the calumet of revolution with the tyrant. "He taught them how to read," they answer when others are astonished at their piety. And what use is it to bring literacy to Cuba (or to the USSR since 1917) if only to read "Granma" or PRAVDA? Why learn to read if only lies are printed? This was Solzhenitsyn's outcry.

Today, in the trampled garden of the Peruvian Embassy, thousands of Solzhenitsyns are voting with their feet and begging the noncommunist West to receive them as exiles, while Castro spurs on his claque to deride them as holligans, idlers, and "maricones" [translation unknown]. And is the West--with the left in the lead--indignant? Does it protest? Do crowds assemble? And demonstrators? No. It is grieved. It sighs. It says that Cuba would not be as it is if the United States had been more understanding of Castro. Looked at another way, if the West pampered the socialist states like the senile Baron Hulot his horses, it could enjoy the pleasure of being thrashed by a socialism that is not only strong, but positively chubby-cheeked. The admission that socialism, in Cuba, as everywhere else it is in power, is one of the major catastrophes of the Twentieth Century, is one which will never pass the lips of the sanctimonious hypocrites who refuse to let the scales fall from their eyes. But the smell is still there. As these lines were written, it wafted up from the Embassy garden where a pathetic herd crowded together and milled

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about. Witnesses said refugees were standing and sleeping in their own excrement and, with the sun overhead, the odor was excruciating.

Lips sealed, eyes closed, ears plugged, these vestals of a socialism which in power is always totalitarian still have to breathe; but haven't these noxious fumes shaken their political certainties, jolted them out of their intellectual easy-chairs? It seems not. Their sense of smell is selective. They have long been accustomed to calling "Russian leather" the pungent smell of the thongs of the knout. For more than half a century.

Journalist Finds Mood of Country Sullen

Paris PARIS MATCH in French 25 Apr 80 pp 32-39

[Text] "I'm tired of running around in circles. Here I am choking. If I get the chance, I'm leaving." Ricardo Paseyro heard remarks like this from hundreds of people in the course of his last trip to Havana. His perfect knowledge of Spanish enabled him to mingle with the sad common people of Cuba. He even saw experts from the Eastern countries singing and bursting into laughter at the airport while awaiting the plane that would take them back home. It is because Fidel Castro's island, once so carefree, has become so sinister...

Could Havana be hell? Yes, if hell is boredom. For it is one of the unhappiest cities in the world--a city which has ceased to sing, to laugh, to have fun, to pulsate, to stir. Nowadays when Fidel or his lieutenants assemble the masses to sermonize them, one reads on all the faces an overpowering fatigue. No more those huge, festive, noisy kermesses where the political issue was less important than that collective euphoria nourished by the dream of a radiant future. The natural gaiety of the Cubans, enamored of dance and music, indolent but sensual, has given way to a general "desgana" [translation unknown]. All work is resented as forced labor; no one--except the officials, who have to recite their catechism--puts any faith in the government's unceasing promises. Eloquence, the "magical word", Fidel's most effective weapon, is completely worn out.

"The Chief speaks too long": such criticism is found frequently these days in Havana. Fidel's speeches--even though they sounded like monologs--nevertheless used to awaken enthusiastic echos. It was good "agit-prop". In 1980, people listen to them because it is a duty, because there are spies, because it's important to know their marching orders--even though they know full well that this deluge of words and this hurricane of vociferations will change nothing. Fidel is abandoning us, he is too busy, he has worldwide stature, sighs a professor from the university. Besides--he adds--if he tries to move suddenly, a swarm of gorillas and courtisans surrounds and envelops him like a protective cocoon.

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Fidel, in his turn, jealously coddles this new social class of bureaucrats and theoreticians steeped in privilege. The common people, enfeebled by privations, bullied by administrative pestering, police harassment, the arrogance of communisto "caudillos", used to say, "Fidel does not know about it": now they consider him chiefly responsible for the system.

I was struck in Havana by the strict lines of separation between the various social classes--a rigidity which is certainly characteristic of Marxist regimes, but which is contrary to the Latin American temperament, especially to that of the Cubans, so spontaneous, ardent, friendly. Using the familiar form of address and the appellation "companero" cannot mask the immense gulf separating, de facto, the well-heeled from the poor, and the elite from the masses. At the top, scheming if not corruption reigns supreme. The least particle of power buys illegal profits. From which derives this bitter play on words: "Nuestro regimen no es, probablemente, socialista, pero es, sin duda, sociolista." The Spanish word "socio," or "partner," has the pejorative meaning "accomplice."

Among these great "partners," Fidel Castro has a special place. Truculent, brutal, arbitrary, tyrannical, he excels at smooth-tongued wheedling. His smooth voice--surprising in a man of his corpulence--has not held him back in his career as an orator; his meager culture--he knows no foreign languages, he is neither a curious reader nor a lover of art--does not prevent him from pontificating and showing off; his appetites always win the sympathy of his interlocutors. "When I pay a visit to Fidel, I always bring him a valise of cheeses, which he adores," a French journalist confided to me....

So, despite a sentimental and not very exemplary life, despite the hatred with which almost his entire family regards him, despite his heartless ingratitude to many friends and comrades, his legendary "camaraderie" has been a great help in establishing his dictatorship and consolidating the regime.

Fidel orders--he is the supreme commander of the army; Fidel leads--he is the prime minister; Fidel points the way--he is the leader of the Party; Fidel judges--he is the president of the Council of State; Fidel reflects--it is he who determines the line; Fidel settles, condemns, decides. This cult of personality cedes nothing to that of Stalin, Mao, Brezhnev, or Ceaucescu. "Forever with Fidel," "Like Fidel Wants It": a thousand such slogans prove that the prime quality required of good Cubans is blind obedience to the "Jefe."

Around him revolves a constellation of "partners" whose light has not dimmed in these long ten years--since the time that Cuba unconditionally espoused the foreign policy of the USSR and its model of society.

The most influential "partners" are Raul Castro, day-to-day chief of the army; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, deputy prime minister, the designated traveler and philosopher of the regime; Armando Hart, in charge of the cultural sector. Permanent fixtures of the government, of the Politburo, and of the party secretariat, they have supported and survived all the purges, bent with every new wind, conceived and established the apparatus of dictatorship.

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From the moment one arrives in Cuba, one is subjected everywhere--in the street, in your room, in the open fields, in the cinema, in the bakery, in the stadium--to the omnipresent propaganda machine. Huge so-called luminous signs stand out in the deserted "ramblas" [translation unknown] of a Havana which once upon a time was so alive, so teeming with people. "Achieve the targets," "Long live friendship with the Soviet Union," "The more we save, the more we have": stupendously ironic advice, as the average Cuban has literally nothing...

200 km from the capital, at the intersection of four little-used roads, I admire a pair of giant posters: "Reading the Marxist classics is a revolutionary duty" says one; the other consists of the simple words: "Against Zionism." I stop at the next village; I ask several inhabitants, surprised and happy that I, being French, speak to them in Spanish: "Companeros, what's the story on this Zionism business?" [They answer:] "To tell the truth, we don't understand too well"...

Perhaps it will finally be beaten into their heads by the obsessive propagandizing to which they are subjected, from cradle to grave, every moment of their lives. Unless so much insistence makes them balk...

For his daily news, the Cuban has no source but GRANMA, the PCC organ, and JUVENTUD REBELDE--for the youth. No foreign newspaper--I emphasize, none, not even L'HUMANITE' is distributed in Cuba. Only the Spanish-language Soviet weekly NOVEDADES DE MOSCOU.

The melding of races, the various periods of foreign occupation--including the English--the triple cultural influence (African, Hispanic, and "Yankee"), made Cuba open and tolerant. "I adore black music, Spanish baroque, pagan rites, and baseball," a young mixed-breed wage-earner confides...in the "House of Czechoslovakian Culture," a sumptuous hangar dedicated, in the heart of Havana, to the glory of "socialist realism."

The regime wanted to tear out the roots linking the Cuban to a complex past. It wants to "politicize" him, to turn him into a Manichean, to transform his psyche. Thus Fidel proclaims: "Indefectible solidarity is the mark of the good revolutionary." He also tries to convince his subjects that they must love the Russians, integrate themselves mind, body, and soul into their system. But the Cubans don't like the Soviets: "They're very tight with their money," "They seem like they come from another planet," "They don't mix with us," "They act very bored," "and very suspicious," "They can buy anything but we nothing": I have not heard one Cuban, as crafty as he may be, speak of the Soviets with friendliness. How many are there, soldiers, technicians, scholars, students, and diplomats all together? A state secret: neither Carter nor, probably, Fidel himself knows. But I can testify that the citizens of the USSR and their satellites have little regard for their Cuban proteges.

I am shivering at the Havana airport, in the company of two French journalists. It is 2130 hours. We have been waiting for hours for the take-off of the Aeroflot plane, delayed by made atmospheric conditions. The passengers

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fill the waiting room: some 100 Soviet Bulgarian, and Hungarian experts (and their families) who had stayed in Cuba and are returning to Europe. Once in the airplane the citizens of the East feel free again. Two bottles of old rum, passed from hand to hand, drunk straight from the bottle, loosen their tongues. "Cuba is a police state," a Hungarian shoots at us; a Soviet goes him one better: "It's even worse, everyone here has a police mentality." Another shouts: "Let's drink to our return to civilization!"

Then out pour their complaints: Infected with megalomania, Castroism is bureaucratic, inefficient, and brutal. The Cubans, chattering malingerers, will never master modern technology and will remain, consequently, always colonial subjects; to live on that island is the harshest of punishments...

One can draw, from these unpleasant reports, one certain conclusion: the USSR maintains Cuba exclusively for political and strategic reasons.

We must ask ourselves, in turn, whether the Cuban people get in exchange for the loss of their liberty and freedom material advantages justifying the regime.

Certainly, conditions are clearly more sanitary than they were 20 years ago; the children are better nourished than almost anywhere in Latin America; unemployment doesn't exist--hidden by bureaucratic plethora and by the exceptional place held by the army in national life. For in Cuba, too, as in the Latin American nations termed "fascist", the army is in power. Pre-military and military service, the maintenance of a permanent army of 180,000 men, the expeditions in Africa, encumber the Cuban economy. The economy has managed to avoid neither monoculture nor penury. The splendid plans destined to diversity production have, in reality, plunged the country into an inextricable chaos. And the "masses" are the main victims.

Twenty-one years later, the primacy of sugar, bought at subsidized prices by the USSR, remains overwhelming; rationing is more strict than ever; the range of monthly wages officially recognized--going from 80 to 800 pesos* (non-convertible, linked to the ruble) illustrates the extent of the inequalities. Almost nothing in Cuba can be bought freely. "Companero," an employee of a Cuban hotel reserved for foreigners says to me--not without first carefully surveying the terrain--"do you want to do me a favor? Two years ago, I promised my wife a pair of sandals and a "bic" [translation unknown]. Here is the money: can you buy them in the hotel boutique? I am not allowed to go in."

So I learn that the "purchase list"--to fill, of necessity, from the local store--is no big deal. For him, a pair of pants, a shirt, trunks, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes per year; for her, a pair of stockings, some toilet articles and four yards of ordinary fabric which she will somehow transform into blouse and skirts.

Nutrition is also rationed--beyond Polish canned soup, Czechoslovakian cakes, and sometimes eggs, butter and rice sold God knows where.

* 1,000 Fr. = 150 pesos

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"I get by on the black market: thanks to barter--our workers are passionately fond of transistor [radios], Gillette razors, T-shirts, that I can get from tourists--I get to eat meat, fowl, fresh fish," explains a touring car driver. Otherwise he would have to resign himself to the fate of those less resourceful than himself: 250g of meat per month, washed down with 10 oz of bad coffee. Sugar? Five pounds a month. Crustaceans? A mythical luxury. Mangos, pineapples, bananas? They go to Bratislava or Sofia.

Who drinks the coffee, who smokes the cigars and cigarettes--one finds at the "estancos" only tobacco of the worst grade--who eats the fruits, the vegetables, the fish forbidden to the ordinary Cuban? One gets the frightening feeling--in this country which so revels in words about dignity and socialism--that the people here are second-class citizens. Their main activity--beyond working--is standing in lines.

To buy ice-cream. Or bread. To get in the cantinas. To get themselves, by whatever means, inside a bus, in an indescribable state of decay, packed with human livestock. To retire with a companion to a private room in a miserable "amueblada" (furnished flat), or to escape, for the length of a sigh, the overcrowded foyers. "My girl friend is part of the women's brigades that directs traffic," explains a young foreign scholarship student. "Thanks to her uniform, she has priority; she has even succeeded in getting the sheets changed, on the pretext that I am a Chilean emigrant and I'm going to marry her."

Well played! In Cuba, as in the USSR, no one cares much about the moral principles..of small-fry. "The revolution will protect your home": if one is out on a mission, the "C.D.R.'s" (committees for the defense of the revolution) will stand guard so the wives of the "companeros" do not forget about conjugal fidelity.

The CDR's are watching everywhere. They divide up and control every quarter, every kind of house, every "granja", every school, every office, every business... They are the cells of an immense police web which covers the whole body of Cuba. In order better to main the respect of their sheep, the lords of the CDR ostentatiously sport their titles. "Ideological leader": this inscription, sometimes in questionable orthography, adorns thousands of premises in Cuba. So many little Torquemadas spying on and denouncing their neighbors day by day.

The refugee affair is dramatic for Castro; it demonstrates that his inquisition, so admirably organized, fell short of its goal. It would be very instructive to know how many members of the CDR's scaled the walls of the Peruvian Embassy.

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Photo Captions

1. Ready for anything, for freedom: Behind this mesh are the miseries and hopes of thousands of refugees crowded into the garden of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. A first contingent of 300 has already left the country on board a Peruvian airplane. "We will win," they cry. "Freedom! Freedom!"
2. Behind their mesh, the Cubans in the Peruvian Embassy seem more and more like curious animals. A number of demonstrators from Havana, under the pretext of shouting their disapproval, in fact come to watch them. The news that the United States was granting asylum to 3,500 Cubans created a sensation. The demonstrators in front of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana [sic]. Among them there were many uniformed high-school girls and children from the rural areas, all shouting and brandishing placards which read: "Get them out of here!" or "We don't want the filth".
3. Confrontation at a bus. Two would-be refugees have abandoned their plans and left the Peruvian Embassy. Escorted by guards of the "Committee for the Defense of the Revolution," they are insulted as soon as they get on the bus. Perhaps they are reviled for giving up the escape attempt, perhaps for being bad communists. A police car finally takes off the two counterrevolutionaries manu militari.

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CUBA

SPANISH PRESS, CARLOS FRANQUI ON COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SITUATION

The Great Stampede

Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 20 Apr 80 pp 78-79

[Text] About 7,000 Cubans filled the Peruvian Embassy in Havana in the most massive incident of diplomatic asylum in history. It is interpreted as Fidel Castro's most resounding political failure in the 21 years since the Cuban Revolution.

"The Cubans are voting with their feet," editorialized the London TIMES. The WASHINGTON POST commented: "It is the closest thing to a free election in Cuba."

A French correspondent described the spectacle as "fascinating" with 7,000 Cubans, including women and children, packed in the halls, gardens, roofs and even the treetops of the Peruvian Embassy compound in Havana.

The incident, "an unprecedented human drama" to the Peruvian foreign minister, reveals a chaotic internal situation and the Castro bureaucracy's dramatic isolation from its people. The nature of this failure was described by Fidel Castro himself in a secret speech to the National Assembly last December.

CAMBIO 16 gives exclusive coverage of its main points. It also offers the testimony of a top revolutionary leader, now in exile, who analyzes the economic failure and lack of popular participation.

It all began on Tuesday, 2 April, when a bus with six people in it ran through the cement blocks put up by the police and the iron gate across the entrance to the gardens of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana.

The guards shot at the vehicle, slightly wounding three of its occupants but accidentally killing a policeman.

The Cuban Government had been arguing with the governments of Peru and Venezuela since January because they had some 50 exiles in their embassies, all of whom entered by force in spite of strict police vigilance.

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According to Castro, they were not exiles but common criminals. The two countries maintained their internationally recognized right to grant asylum.

With this state of affairs, the death of the policeman led the Cuban Government to lift the police guard at the Peruvian Embassy. The officials did not imagine that, as soon as the official communique was heard on radio, caravans of Cubans began to form. They left everything and went to the embassy for asylum.

By Friday night, the refugees had invaded everything, climbing over the fence of the garden, the walls of the embassy and the residence of the ambassador, finally breaking down the entrance gate.

"Freedom, freedom" and "Peru, Peru" were the mottoes heard in the crowd throughout the night along with stanzas of the Cuban national anthem.

The next day the government had to yield to the evidence that as soon as there was the slightest crack in the wall of absolute restrictions for emigration, thousands of people hurried to exploit the opportunity without considering the sacrifices.

Rocks and a shot were fired against the refugees. The official newspaper GRANMA described them as "homosexuals, gamblers and drug addicts," "criminals, antisocial elements, vagrants and parasites," "rabble" and "the dregs." The police had already formed a blockade to prevent any more refugees because of lack of space.

To Fidel Castro, president of the nonaligned movement, with expeditionary "liberation" forces in Africa and hegemonic pretensions in the convulsive processes in Central America, the incident of the refugees has been one of his worst political failures, according to an almost unanimous interpretation of journalistic organs and diplomatic observers.

Since last year the dramatic economic situation, the dependence on the USSR and the absolute lack of popular participation have led to increased police measures, arrests and rebellion.

A spectacular incident was needed to testify to this historic occasion and the rebellion that it is provoking. The 7,000 refugees have provided this with their desperation and courage.

Fidel Castro's Secret Speech

Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 20 Apr 80 pp 78-79

[Text] Following are excerpts of Fidel Castro's secret speech given on 27 December 1979 at the closing session of the National People's Government Assembly, cited exclusively by CAMBIO 16.

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"We explain the problems of 1979, the decreases in bread and beans. The basic food was going to be lentils from the Soviet Union....The chickens that were expected from a socialist country were missing; thousands of tons of chicken did not arrive....Other factors in 1979 and 1980 were blue mold tobacco disease and sugarcane rust disease. If we had been more efficient before, we would have had more tobacco. The blue mold disease has caused losses of \$100 million."

"It was a hard blow. A prolonged sugar harvest affected the other crops.... It was necessary to put a moratorium on construction....There are no towels; if only every few years you could have a towel. There are also problems with sheets and mattresses. We have to find a way to increase housing production, one of the supercritical points in this country....Another critical point is the lack of work clothes....We navigate in a sea of difficulties. We have been in that sea for a long time and we will continue in that sea."

"It was necessary to give an extensive explanation because there was lack of understanding about the well-known problem of the trips of the community (the Cuban exiles) which have become a source of revenue of \$100 million a year....More revenue comes from the construction we do abroad. We are building in Angola, Guinea, Iraq, Vietnam and Grenada. This means millions of dollars."

"Because of a shortage of raw materials in certain factories, we are going to have to reduce their work forces....There are prisoners working. Wherever a prisoner competes with a construction worker, we will lay off the prisoner, not the worker. Didn't we say that there are some tens of thousands of unemployed youths? We put them to work measuring electricity and collecting from those who do not want to pay. Illegal electric hookups (stolen electricity) cannot be used like a gun: either give me electricity or I will install an illegal hookup. There are blackouts and not enough electricity. We cannot accept this or the occupation of houses.... Nor can we accept failure to pay rent or bus fares: bad habits have been established in our people. It is necessary to revise the electric rates and increase them or the blackouts will not end. There are more than 90,000 families who have installed free electricity and do not pay. Others do not pay rent. Unacceptable. "

"Certain problems, ideological weaknesses, lack of discipline and corruption began to show up. Is it possible that the lack of enemies makes us lose ability...? Why aggravate those situations with privileges?"

"In 1979 we had problems with products from the socialist bloc, lack of fulfillment. Out of 500,000 cubic meters of wood, we only received 28 percent. If the Soviets will assign us some Siberian forests because they do not have the work force to exploit them, we will send our labor brigades to cut and produce lumber and wood. It is better in Siberia because it is not as hot....We have tens of thousands of workers and

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internationalist soldiers abroad. There are 1,200 teachers in Nicaragua. At any given moment, we had 35,000 soldiers in Angola and 19,000 soldiers in Ethiopia. Of course, we would have 10,000 men to produce wood in Siberia....It is necessary to establish discipline in the work centers. Recently, 4,000 policemen in 1,000 patrol cars made the first roundup of criminals and will hold them as long as necessary. The counterrevolutionary elements can go soak their heads. We will build all the jails necessary."

Following are excerpts of a speech given in Santiago de Cuba by Raul Castro, shortly after Fidel's apocalyptic vision.

"At times we ask: Isn't there even food in this country now? Of course, as long as we only work 4 hours in the field, we will remain without food for another 20 years. People play tricks and lie about agricultural work, industries, transportation and services. There is favoritism, nepotism, 'cronyism'...."

"Those to blame for all these labor problems and lack of discipline are mainly the leaders and officials of the enterprises, not the workers. They falsify statistics and use and abuse the prerogatives of their positions and the resources of the enterprises in order to solve their personal problems."

"We must not use this situation as a convenient crutch to explain all our problems. We must not use the truly negative consequences of the economic blockade and other external or natural factors as pretexts to hide all our inefficiencies or shortages. Sugarcane rust disease cannot mask errors that are our responsibility. It is necessary to reestablish discipline at all costs and in all spheres."

Franqui Sees 'Pestilential Situation'

Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 20 Apr 80 p 80

[Article by Carlos Franqui, Fidel Castro's comrade in Sierra Maestra, director of Radio Rebelde and editor of the newspaper REVOLUCION: "Cuba 1980: Year of the Pestilence"]

[Text] Fidel Castro's phrase, not mine, summarizes the failure of the regime and the tragedy that the Cuban people live today. It is understood, then, why 10,000 Havana residents entered the Peruvian Embassy during the 2 days the military guard was gone--the most massive asylum in history. It is understood that the precursors of the "boat people" cast their lot with challenging marine guards, the gulf current, sharks and Russian boats that return the fugitives that they find in the sea and on the coasts to the island and its prisons. A thousand Cubans are being held in Regla for attempting to escape in recent days; hundreds reach the coasts of Florida, Yucatan and other Caribbean islands.

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Schools, restrooms and inside walls have violent expressions written and drawn on them as in the time of Franco: Fidel, blood; Raul, hunger; Brezhnev, orders; Fidel, Raul and Brezhnev--down with all three.

The streets are whitewashed to erase the accusations and youths are shot for printing manifestos against the regime.

It is understood that, on the statue of the horse of Maceo, a hero of independence, there is always an open and empty suitcase and two signs: "I am going also" and "the Castro horse is dying." According to official figures on the island, entire towns have stolen electricity and 90,000 families have connected the well-known illegal power hookups for free. The people do not pay for rent, electricity, buses or other bad state services. The empty houses, in a country with ruined housing, and the houses of the old rich, inhabited by leaders, are occupied in protest. Facing the unprofitableness of work, the low wages, the excessive tasks, raw materials that do not arrive, the lack of transportation to go to the factories and agricultural products that rot before being consumed because they are sent to Mother Russia (lobster, shrimp, oranges and grapefruit) or to Europe (cigars and preserves), rural and urban workers refuse to work or work a half day and spend the rest of the day looking for food on the black market.

It is understood that the youths resist in spite of the tropical "gulags" where they are sent for 3 years for being vagrants, antisocial elements, homosexuals and counterrevolutionaries and wear "blue jeans" and bikinis, play guitars, sing rock music and jazz, read banned books and listen to foreign radio.

The economic failure is total as one of the Castro brothers recognizes: three were three and none was good. Raul Castro cynically stated: "There is no food in this country. If we continue this way, there will not be any for the next 20 years."

Rationing which began in 1961 has become worse. There are more queues and less to eat--only Russian lentils or pizza. There is no information. There is not a single freedom. Castro's three alleged gems--universal employment, education and health--are a disaster, according to the regime itself. More unemployment--more than 100,000 workers, according to official figures--has been decreed because of a shortage of socialist raw materials. In spite of military service and the war in Africa, youths cannot find work.

Not only are Sartre, Moravia, Pasolini, Vargas Llosa, Octavio Paz, Neruda, Fuentes, Goytisolo and the most important contemporary writers and artists banned, but also Marx--there is Fidel to interpret him, according to Raul--Berlinguer, Santiago Carrillo, Felipe Gonzalez, "Che Guevara" and Rosa Luxemburgo. GRANMA is called the "sugarless PRAVDA."

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It is understood that the lack of water in Havana is so bad that toilets are only flushed once a day and the people, in spite of the heat, only bathe every 3 days.

The police control is repressive, bureaucratic and vast. Castro said that there were no political prisoners. Now thousands have left after hard and long sentences and torture and murder in prison--like Boniato--as confirmed by Amnesty International. There are more than 1,000 old prisoners like Commander Menoyo and the Catholic poet Valladares (an invalid) and the empty jails have been filled again recently. Fidel Castro said it: "We will build more jails."

It seems incredible but in Cuba even the animals have passports. Every animal has an iron number on a collar. The registration includes birth, transfer and death. No peasant can freely get rid of an animal. The 20 most important Cuban products are rationed: sugar, coffee, meat, milk, cigars, cigarettes, beans, corn, rice, beer, chocolate, sweet potatoes, oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, avocados, potatoes, lettuce, bananas, yucca and taro. Parties, Christmas, New Year's Day and Holy Week have been abolished; African rites and games have been banned and bars and night clubs closed. Gay Havana has been invaded by Russians and Muscovite sadness. A Siberian and Fidelist breeze crosses the country from east to west.

The "pinchos" (commanders, leaders and doctors) who enjoy houses and privileges cynically call their servants, chauffeurs, cooks, gardeners and guards "domestic companions." The gay people who sang "In Manzanillo they dance/ in shirt and pants" now sing "In Manzanillo they do not dance/ because there are no shirts or pants." Cuba is filled with new highways but does not have any bridges or buses.

Every Cuban lives this terrible failure every day, for 20 years now, one day after another. Fidel Castro's regime is crazed. He uses total power to order his people to war in Africa or Asia and their families to bury them. If a soldier returns alive but is not an officer, they toss him aside. Everyone is tired of working, obeying and enduring. Foreign currency is needed so they call in the old and slandered "worms," now called the "Cuban community in exile." The 100,000 who visited Cuba last year left behind more than \$100 million. They came from all social classes and peoples on the island and brought everything that was missing. That was the end.

What explains this failure? Not the natural disasters or the economic blockade--at one time important but now illusory--as the Castros claim. The cause of all this is bossism, militarism, a single party, the Russian model, sugar monoculture, Soviet dependence, single state ownership and great-power policies in a small country. It is a great lie disguised as humanistic ideals in the hands of a single leader--Fidel Castro. The year of the pestilence, 1980, offers Cubans only these alternatives: hunger,

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prison, Africa or Siberia with Fidel Castro; or escape, asylum or rebellion. That is the cry of protest and rebellion that cuts a bloody swath across the fields and cities of Cuba.

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CUBA

SOLID SHIELD 80 MANEUVERS LINKED TO PAST

PA110353 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2208 GMT 9 May 80

[Commentary by Gerard Pierre Charles]

[Text] The solid shield 80 maneuvers which the Pentagon is executing in the Caribbean with more than 20,000 troops, 42 ships and 350 planes constitute one more episode in the long history of U.S. intervention in the area.

Although Washington had to cancel the planned landing on occupied Cuban territory in Guantanamo due to international clamor because of the provocative nature of the operation, other aspects of the maneuver are being conducted which involve a large-scale warlike deployment and an obvious threat.

Considering the characteristics of the Sea of the Antilles, these military maneuvers take on an undeniable interventionist character. This is proved by the experience of the region of almost a century after the United States came onto the world scene as a power, especially after the Roosevelt and Hoover years [names as received].

During that stage, interventionism availed itself to all possible means and resources, such as gunboat diplomacy, the Spanish-American War, the occupation of Cuba and Puerto Rico, the operation of Panama, the big stick policy channeled toward punitive actions against Mexico and in the interventions and military occupations in Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

With the "Good Neighbor" policy and later with the "cold war," this aggressive conduct was camouflaged and hidden behind local dictatorships and indirect actions, like in Guatemala and in British Guyana during the decade of the 1950's.

The Cuban revolution forced imperialism to unmask and to openly manifest its interventionist practices.

Today these aggressive actions are justified by alluding to the "communist danger." Since the peoples of the region personally suffered these

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aggressions and impositions long before the "ghost of communism" made its appearance, they know very well that they only were carried out to try to guarantee financial interests and insure the hegemony of the great imperialist power in this part of the continent.

It is well to recall that the perimeter formed by Central America and the Caribbean constitute an important zone of U.S. control and domination. It has more than \$20 million invested there, that is, around 30 percent of the total capital placed in the continent.

Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Dominican Republic and Haiti supply 90 percent of the aluminum needs of the United States, while the refineries of Trinidad, Aruba, Curacao and the Virgin Islands supply one-fourth of its petroleum imports.

The transnational societies and U.S. banks benefit from privileged regimes that allow them to do juicy business.

In the military terrain, Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone play key roles as parts of a strategic triangle, which operates from its headquarters in southern Florida, with numerous installations in the Bahama Islands and the Lesser Antilles. This network has been strengthened by a permanent force in the Caribbean of some 30,000 men.

In addition to the general headquarters of the southern command, which must "protect" Latin America, there are many bases and special schools in the Canal Zone in which thousands of Latin American officers have been trained in the art of betraying and repressing their own people.

In Puerto Rico the United States has sophisticated military structures, including nuclear implements. For this reason Washington refused to include its Puerto Rican colony in the Tlatelolco treaty (which bans the use of nuclear weapons in Latin America).

This military infrastructure and the omnipresence of units of the U.S. fleet in the Caribbean basin and the Gulf of Mexico were used in April 1965 against the Dominican people in a massive intervention in which participating landing troops and logistic forces totaled 40,000.

A study made in 1977 by the Brookings Institute of Washington recognized that from 1946 to 1972, the United States has mobilized contingents in 58 operations of intimidation, prevention or contention. Of these 58 maneuvers, 53 have occurred in the theater of the Caribbean Sea and 42 took place against 11 countries after the Cuban revolution.

The surveillance and permanent threats of the great imperialist power have been unable to stop the triumph of socialism in Cuba, the victory of the liberating revolutions in Granada and Nicaragua, or the recent popular insurgencies currently shaking El Salvador and Guatemala.

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In this context, the purposes of the above-mentioned military maneuvers come to the surface.

Following the fall of Somoza, the U.S. attitude in the area has hardened noticeably. This can be appreciated in the multiple machinations against Cuba, in the pressure and threats against the democratic government of Michael Manley in Jamaica, in the resurging of repression in El Salvador and Guatemala and in Haiti with the strengthening of the "lifetime" dictatorship of the Duvaliers, which has already been in power 23 years.

In the past few months, the Pentagon has fostered notable military reshuffles in the region. Major General Robert Schweitzer and coast guard Cmdr John B. Hayes have visited Haiti and the Dominican Republic to outline new terms of technical-military aid to the armed forces of those countries.

It is said that Barbados and Trinidad-Tobago are also forming a joint military force, under the advisement of the Pentagon. Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras are also drawing up mutual defense and reciprocal intervention agreements, thus attempting to replace the crumpled Central American Defense Council.

Under the name of Caribe-America Central, a new economic and political cooperation organization was started in Washington on 9 April, at Carter's initiative. This organization intends to bring together local businessmen, the representatives of the transnationals and the official, intellectual and labor sectors in an antipopular holy alliance.

Military and political maneuvers are becoming part of a concrete project of maintenance and reinforcement of U.S. domination in the explosive Caribbean and Central American region.

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CUBA

'PRELA' COMMENTS ON MEETING OF AIR FORCE CHIEFS IN CHILE

PA092011 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1910 GMT 7 May 80

[Commentary by Ivonne Pastor Parra: "Military Conclave: New Threats Against Latin America and the Caribbean"]

[Text] The conference of force chiefs in certain Latin American countries and the United States, which opened today in Chile, is aimed at reinforcing James Carter administration's war-oriented policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting is being presided over by Air Force Chief Gen Fernando Matthei, a member of the Chilean military junta, who openly participated in the repression unleashed after the military coup that overthrew Salvador Allende's constitutional government in 1973 and who also appears on the list of torturers presented at the Helsinki conference.

Matthei received military training in the United States and served as director of operations of the Air Force General Staff and commander of the course on shooting and bombing in Group 1, known as "Los Condores," in Iquique, northern Chile. He traveled to Brazil on 28 May 1979 to buy war materiel and strengthen Chile's military arsenal.

In attendance at the military conference are the air force chiefs of Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Panama, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Brazil and Bolivia, as well as representatives of the Inter-American Defense Board, Canada (a member of NATO), and the U.S. Southern Command, whose headquarters are in the Panama Canal Zone.

The U.S. delegation attending the meeting is led by Gen Lew Allen, chief of the Air Force General Staff and former director of the U.S. National Security Agency, who recently visited Brazil to "expand friendly U.S. ties with the Brazilian air forces."

The agenda for the event includes, among others, the following topics: "cooperation" in some areas that will permit common work among the inter-American air forces, mutual logistical support, training and operation of and regulations for a support committee in case of disaster.

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The possibility of using the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) satellites to develop "search and rescue plans and programs" will also be discussed.

According to observers, the military meeting is taking place in Chile at the very moment the Carter administration has expanded and increased U.S. military presence in Latin America and the Caribbean while intensifying an aggressive campaign against Cuba, which includes the staging of mock war situations near that country.

They add that Washington's strategy for the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean represents a clear continuation of the interventionist policy of the 1960's, which was based on the use of military might to achieve its objectives.

They recall that this dangerous policy is part of U.S. plans to create in Latin America and the Caribbean a so-called "force for the maintenance of peace" and "multinational patrol forces," which would act as gendarmes.

They also point out that Chile, the site of this military conclave, and one of Latin America's most militarized countries thanks to U.S. military aid, has also expanded its ties with the Beijing leadership and with South Africa's racist regime. According to the sources, Chilean military contingents are currently at the side of the South African troops concentrated in Namibia, near the Angolan border.

Alongside the Chinese leadership and the racist South African regime, Chile has also participated in the propaganda campaign orchestrated by the United States against the prestige of the Cuban revolution.

The analysts also stress that along with Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, Chile is included in the top U.S. military command's geopolitical plans to organize the South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO).

Brazil is participating in military maneuvers in the Caribbean and the Atlantic with the United States and other NATO members. It is also staging mock war exercises in the Atlantic Ocean with the French Navy.

Franklin Krammer, a ranking Pentagon representative, recently stated that "within the framework of U.S. military and economic aid to Latin American and Caribbean countries, resources aimed at helping create SATO are being especially considered." He then underscored that this war-oriented pact will further guarantee "the security of the United States, the South American countries and the nations in southern Africa."

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CUBA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PA030237 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2210 GMT 1 May 80

[Text] Prague, 1 May (PL)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peopli said that his talks with Czechoslovak leaders were noted for their full agreement on their attitudes toward the main international problems.

Malmierca, who arrived in Prague yesterday on a tour that will take him to Austria, Iran, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, said that they also agreed on the solutions to these international problems.

The Cuban minister met with President Gustav Husak, Premier Lubomir Strougal, and with Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek.

Expanding on his talks in Czechoslovakia, Malmierca said that following a tradition of a healthy exchange of opinions and positions, we took advantage of these meetings to present our impressions on the present Cuban situation, especially on the peoples mobilizations, such as the fighting people's march held on 19 April and the 1 May activities.

He also spoke on the preparations for another mobilization of over half of the Cuban population for 8 May, when the United States plans to begin military maneuvers near Cuba. He said that this demonstration will express our people's readiness to defend the revolutionary conquests and reject any threat by yankee imperialism.

"We took advantage of these meetings to also express to the Czechoslovak Government and party how these maneuvers in which over 20,000 men will participate, as well as 42 warships and 350 aircraft, are different from those held in the past. The fact that they include the landing of marines and regular U.S. army troops in the territory they illegally occupy at the Guantanamo Naval Base represents a real threat against Cuba which all our people reject.

These maneuvers are also a threat to frighten peoples in the region who have elected to be independent and reject U.S. attempts to impose its policies.

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He said that the U.S. military maneuvers have created protests from many countries and said that the governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua have informed the United States on the advisability of suspending them.

He said that a general rejection has been expressed by peoples, mass and labor organizations as well as other progressive sectors in the world which have expressed their solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

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EL SALVADOR

TOP FPL LEADER URGES U.S.-CANADIAN SOLIDARITY

PA062330 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1449 GMT 6 May 80

[Text] Montreal, 6 May (PL)--Salvador Cayetano Carpio, (alias Marcial), the top leader of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL), has stated: All our people are united in a single objective: a definitive liberation, the triumph of the popular revolution and the installation of a democratic revolutionary government.

The top FPL leader sent a message to the Friends of El Salvador Committee here, in which he pointed out the need to mobilize the U.S. and Canadian people to develop a wide movement of solidarity with the Salvadoran people's struggle.

The Friends of El Salvador Committee is organizing several solidarity activities, among them, a "flash football championship" with 6 teams from the Latin American community (Colombia, El Salvador, Chile and Guatemala) which will compete on 10 and 11 May for the "solidarity with El Salvador" trophy.

On their part, Quebec's popular, political, democratic and labor organizations, in coordination with the Friends of El Salvador Committee, will organize a "permanent secretariat" this week to work for and support the struggle of this Central American country.

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EL SALVADOR

MAJANO MAY AGREE TO RELEASE OF D'AUBUISSON

PA120313 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0248 GMT 12 May 80

[Text] San Jose, 11 May (PL)--A new worsening of the Salvadoran political situation became obvious today after top officers of the army demanded the release of several militarymen under arrest who supported a coup.

According to reports heard here, the officers, while they backed Col Adolfo Majano, chief of the Salvadoran Government junta, demanded that Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson be released from jail.

D'Aubuisson has been under arrest since Wednesday along with several retired officers and civilians charged with attempting a coup d'etat, which has been described by Central American political circles as profascist.

It was confirmed by local sources that the general staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces confirmed their demand for the release of d'Aubuisson and the other persons arrested and Colonel Majano appeared to be willing to accept it.

The sources added that a sector of the Christian Democratic Party that is part of the Salvadoran Government junta said it would withdraw from the junta if the former major and his accomplices are freed.

The situation, according to what has been learned in this capital, appeared to be causing another division in the Salvadoran junta, which was virtually beheaded following the political crises of February and March.

In addition, an organization supporting the coupists, the Free Salvadoran Fatherland, has 200 persons, among them high-ranking businessmen and politicians, surrounding the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador to ask Ambassador Robert White to support the release of d'Aubuisson.

Spokesmen of the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses, which groups the popular Salvadoran organizations have charged that White is serving as mediator between the factions in the conflict, thus confirming the interventionist role of the United States.

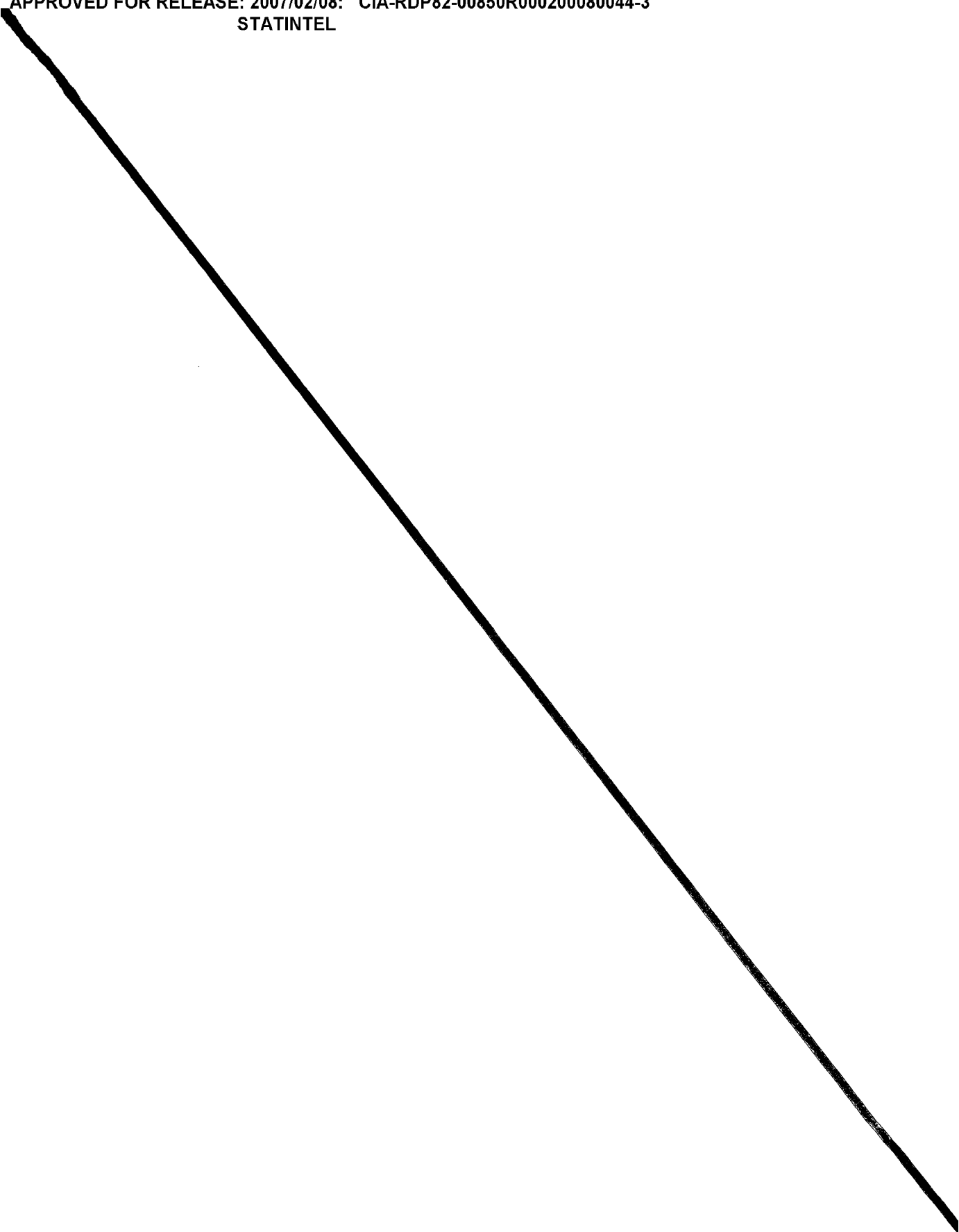
Central American observers point out that the Salvadoran crisis appears to be growing, with rumors of new resignations from the cabinet directed by the government junta in which four ministries continue to be vacant.

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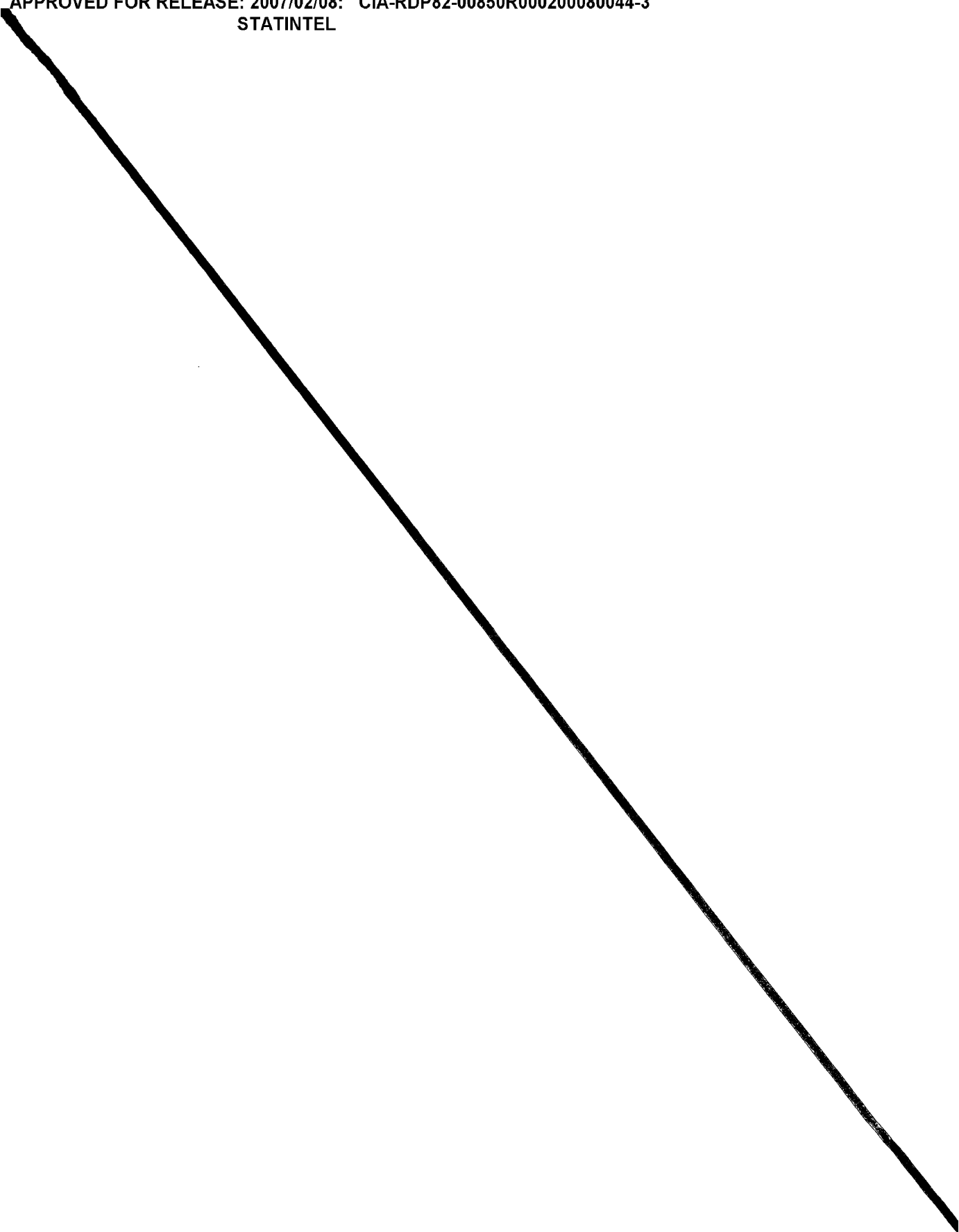
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HONDURAS

BRIEFS

STUDENTS DENOUNCE U.S. INFLUENCE--Managua, May 7 (PL)--The alleged democratic opening which is taking place in Honduras must be understood as a United States maneuver to contain the revolutionary movement in the region, a delegation of university students charged. Headed by Mario Rivera, president of the Federation of University Students of Honduras, three representatives of that country were the first speakers at the opening session of the student seminar which is being held in this capital from May 5 to 7. The event has as its aim to learn about the Central American revolutionary struggle and to forge anti-imperialist unity as a tactic and strategy for victory. The Honduran delegation presented a document which forms part of a university investigation on the political development of the nation since 1972, preceded by a historic resume and concluded with future political perspectives. The university students consider "very dangerous" the new stage which their country is entering, due to the development of the imperialist maneuver of handing over ideological, political and juridical control to civilians, while the armed forces are playing their role of defender of the dominating sectors. [Text] [PA062038 Havana PRELA in English 1725 GMT 6 May 80]

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PERU

UDI CANDIDATE REJECTS U.S. MANEUVERS AGAINST CUBA

PA111352 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1915 GMT 10 May 80

[Text] Lima, 10 May (PL)--Retired Gen Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa, presidential candidate of the Leftist Unity (UDI) has denounced here the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism against the victorious Cuban revolution.

In a rally held in El Callo port, in the outskirts of this capital, the UDI leader stressed his solidarity with the Cuban people and government in the face of these maneuvers.

Our platform includes the place of Peru within the nonaligned movement and establishing relations with all countries in the world, with the socialist countries and particularly with heroic Cuba, the UDI candidate added. The UDI is made up of the socialist, revolutionary, communist and other parties.

Rodriguez Figueroa explained that with its maneuvers the U.S. Government is trying to create problems for a nation that found its path of liberation and justice. The U.S. Government is also trying to create conditions to strike at the process of liberation in Central America.

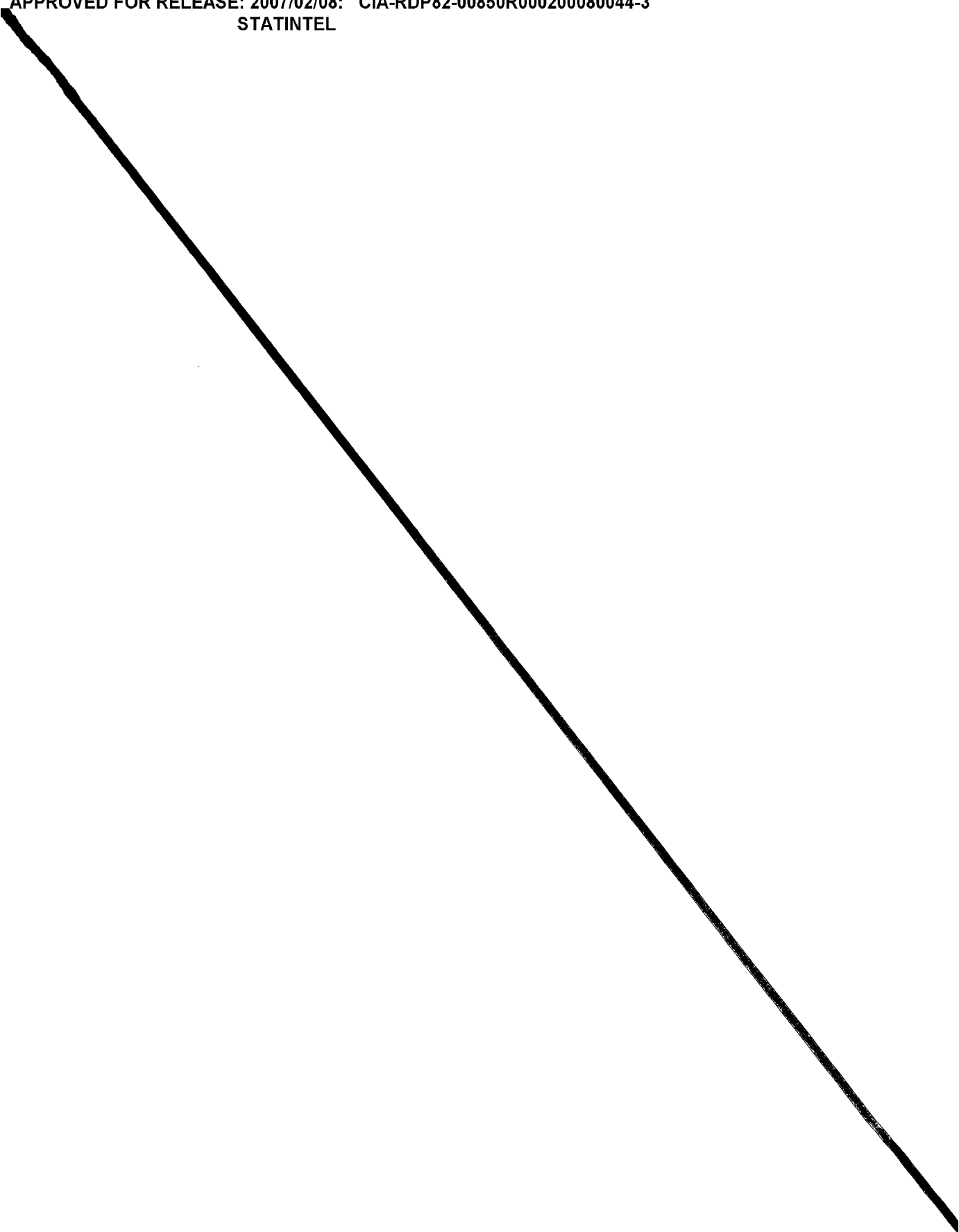
It is also trying to isolate the heroic Nicaraguan people and frustrate the advance of the Sandinists toward their final liberation. The United States is trying to prevent the struggle of the Salvadoran people from reaching their complete victory, he added.

Within this context, he noted that imperialism is trying to arm the reaction by presenting a false image of the Cuban reality to prevent the Bolivian revolutionary forces from reaching power in the upcoming elections.

In view of these maneuvers, all the popular forces in Peru, the Socialist Revolutionary Party (PSR) and the UDI have rejected imperialism and expressed solidarity with the Cuban revolution, Rodriguez Figueroa concluded.

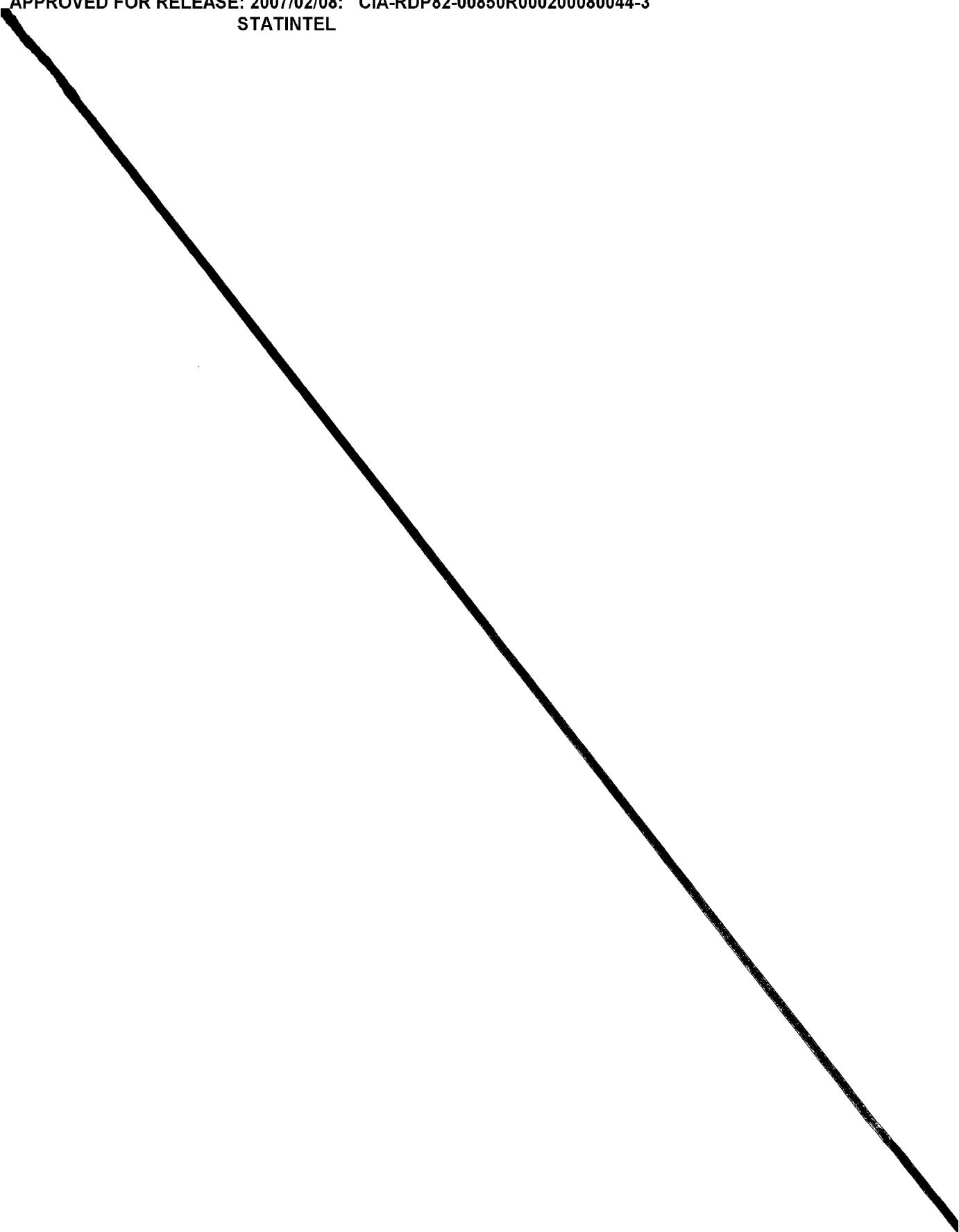
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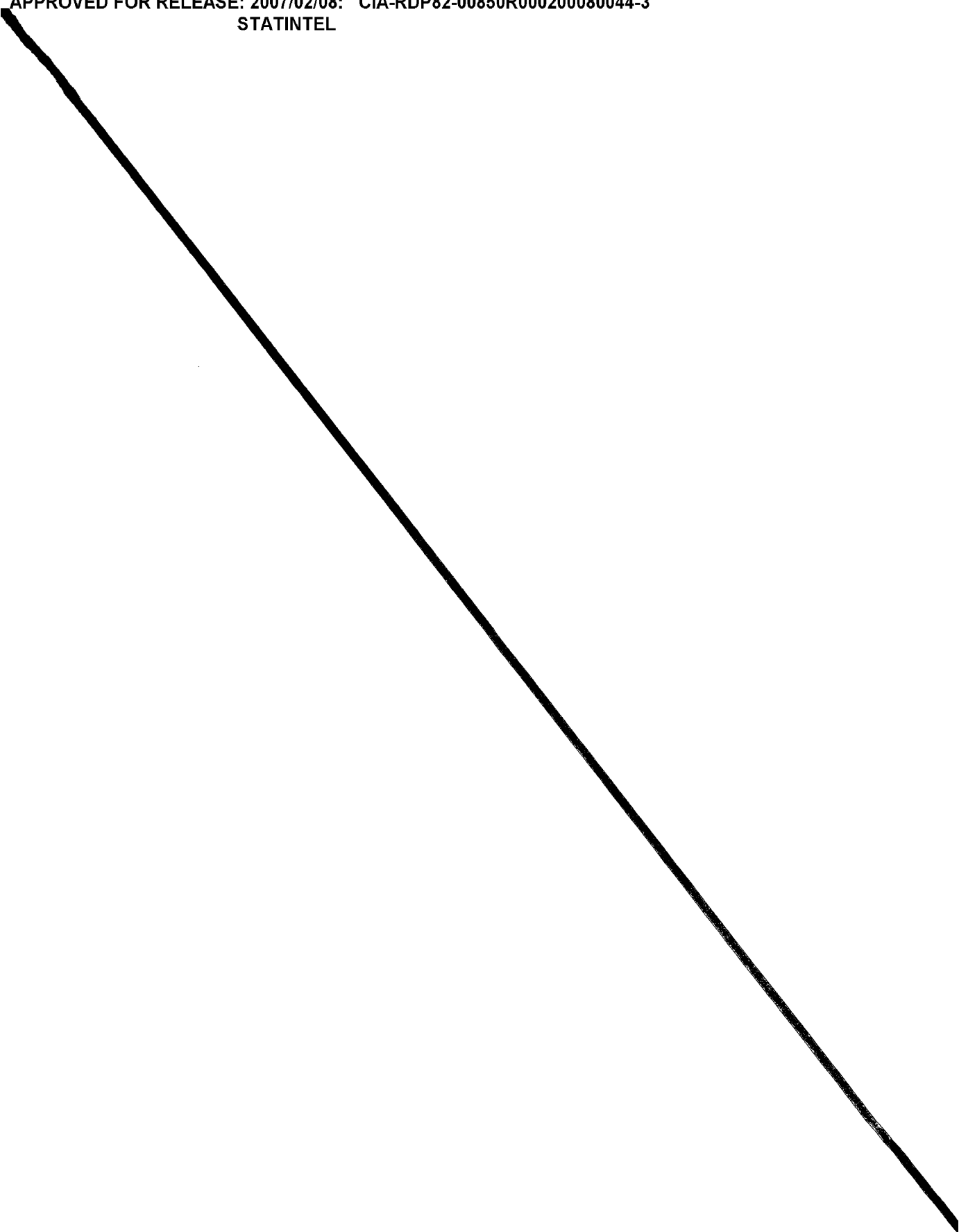
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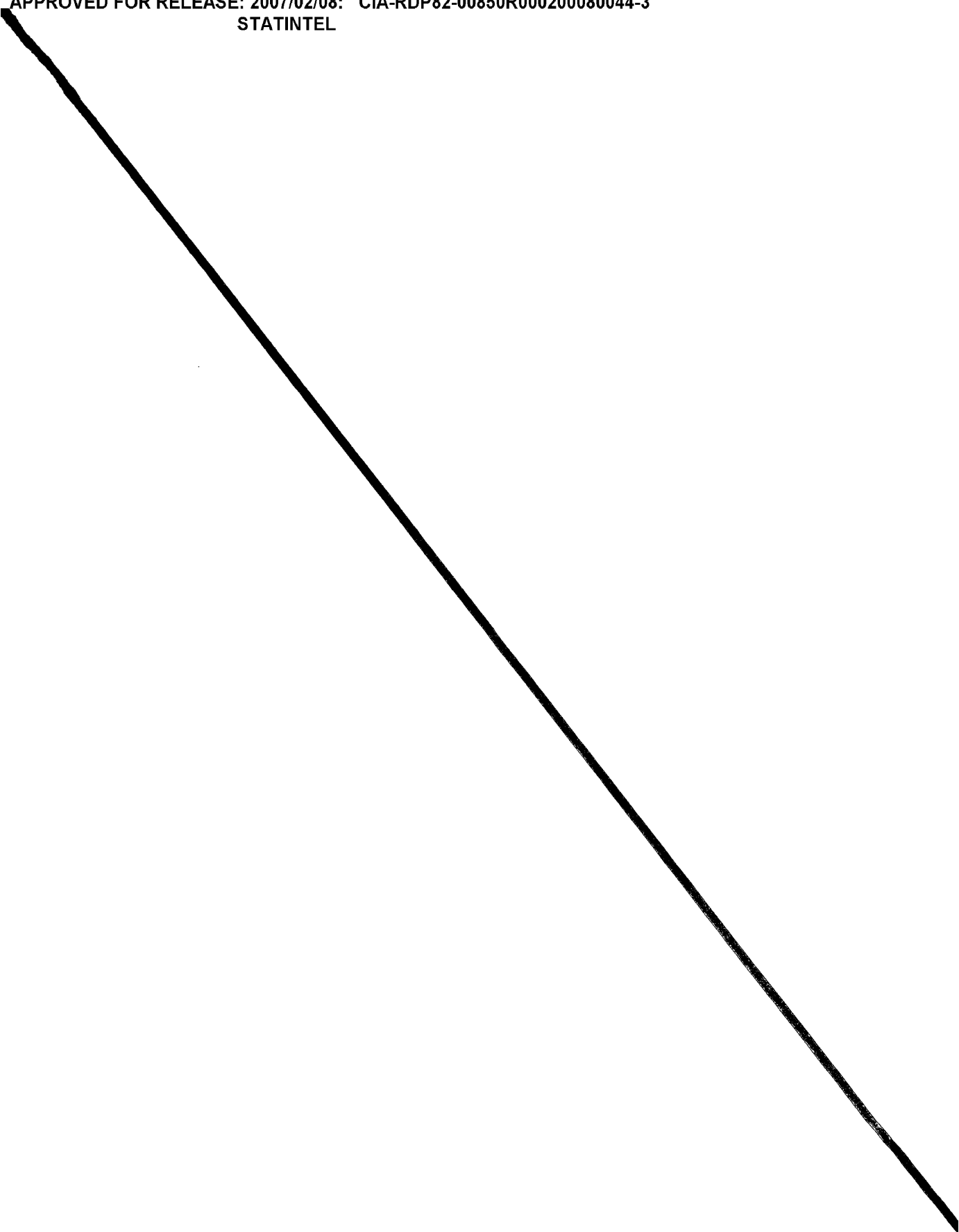
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to reply to Castro's rage with rage would be to play his game: that is, instead of being the offended, we would be used as the offenders.

If, in reality, the public freedoms which democracy establishes in Venezuela have offended the Cuban regime, our country should let it take the initiative of breaking relations. The country's tradition of respect for human rights demands that Venezuela not close in Havana one of the few departure doors which are open to desperate people.

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