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JPRS L/10334

18 February 1982

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 2/82)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SELA, ECOWAS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION--Caracas, 22 Jan (VENPRES)--SELA and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have signed a joint communique in Caracas to promote relations and trade between the member countries of the two organizations. An ECOWAS mission led by its executive secretary, Aboubakar Diaby Ouattara, has met with SELA Permanent Secretary Carlos Alzamora and several SELA officials at their headquarters. During the meeting, they exchanged viewpoints on their experiences with economic integration and cooperation processes in West Africa and Latin America. They also discussed the work programs of the two organizations and the selection of the fields of cooperation between the two regions within the framework of the South-South cooperation agreed upon in the meeting of the group of the 77 in Caracas in mid-1981. ECOWAS is made up of 16 countries: Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Liberia, Upper Volta, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Togo, Benin, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone. They have a combined population of 150 million people, while SELA has 26 member countries with a combined population of 350 million. The presidents and foreign ministers of the ECOWAS members meet once a year. This meeting is directed by a council of ministers from the ECOWAS member countries which guides the work of the Executive Secretariat and the \$50-million regional cooperation fund. [Text] [PA242239 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1735 GMT 22 Jan 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

BANANA COMPANY'S PARAMILITARY GROUP DISMANTLED--San Jose, 18 Jan (PL)--The WEEKLY LIBERTAD has reported that a paramilitary group maintained by the Banana Development Company (BANDECO) on one of its plantations in the country's Atlantic Coast has been dismantled. The BANDECO workers who were on strike got the government to order the withdrawal of the 15 military men hired by the foreign consortium. Those individuals had been sent to the El Carmen plantation in Siquirres on the Atlantic Coast. The military men, who had been discharged by the security ministry, were harassing the workers and the peasants living near the property of the foreign monopoly. The WEEKLY LIBERTAD is the news organ of the popular Vanguard Party. [Text] [PA181428 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1326 GMT 18 Jan 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON DRUGS

PA281756 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1617 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Havana, 28 Jan (PL)--The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry has rejected the U.S. effort to press at Cuba as an accomplice in the international drug traffic.

In a statement issued last night, the Foreign Relations Ministry declares that Cuba has never given or sent arms to the Colombian guerrillas.

Here is a text of the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry statement:

The U.S. State Department has just issued an official statement trying to link Cuba with drug-traffickers to facilitate, allegedly, arms supplies to Latin American guerrillas.

The State Department states: "Cuba facilitates the work of networks of traffickers by allowing mother ships transporting marihuana to seek refuge in Cuban waters while waiting for the arrival of transport boats from the Bahamas and Florida." This is a lie that represents true infamy.

If there is drug-trafficking in America and if this is a profitable business, it is because of the growing corruption in U.S. society. This corruption has resulted in a continuous increase in the number of drug addicts at all levels of society and in an unstoppable consumption of drugs.

The links between the "mafia," politics and the U.S. authorities is daily exposed by the yankee news media, films and novels. It was the U.S. Senate, and not an anti-imperialist center, which clearly established the agreements made between the CIA and the mafia--with the encouragement and support of U.S. Government officials--to organize the assassination of chiefs of state of the region.

If there is drug traffic, it is because in countries such as Colombia, the planting, production and international sale of drugs annually produces millions of dollars, a good share of which goes into the pockets of well-known civilian and military authorities in those countries.

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Cuba is the only Latin American country that has been able to rid itself of the spreading drug vice. Cuba is also free of the cultivation and sale of drugs. No one would dare deny this fact.

No country of Latin America has fought harder, or with more energy and decisiveness than Cuba to prevent air and sea traffic of drugs to the United States.

Proof of this is that dozens of U.S. and Latin American drug-traffickers have served time in Cuban prisons. Those who did not complete their time or who are not still in prison, were released because Cuba acceded to do this due to humanitarian requests from important U.S. and Latin American persons.

For this reason, we reject with indignation the ignoring of this fact and the presenting of Cuba as an accomplice in the international traffic of drugs.

We also flatly reject the information that the State Department claims to have according to which Mr Jaime Guillot Lara "went to Cuba on two occasions since October 1981 and on his second visit received \$700,000 from the Cuban Government to buy arms for the Colombian 19 April Movement, M 19, guerrillas." This is, absolutely, another lie. That person has never been in Cuba. He has not received a single dollar from Cuba for any purpose.

We have stated that Cuba has never given or sent arms to the Colombian guerrillas and we once again categorically reiterate this.

If the U.S. Government persists in this type of charges or in similar hostile actions against our country, Cuba will find itself forced to cease all the cooperation that it maintains with the United States in the struggle against the traffic of drugs.

The truth is that our country has been some sort of gendarme in the Caribbean against an international drug traffic that does not affect Cuba at all and we are in no sense obligated to cooperate with the arrogant government of a country that maintains a criminal economic embargo against our fatherland, that illegally occupies a part of our national territory and that maintains a continuous policy of hostility, aggression and threats against our people.

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Relations.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BRIEFS

NONALIGNED COORDINATION MEETING--Havana, 20 Jan (PL)--It has been announced here that the fourth meeting of coordinators of the action program of the Nonaligned Countries Movement [NAM] will be held in Havana from 10 to 13 March. It has also been learned that the meeting, to approve draft reports on sections of the action program drawn up by the groups of the coordinating nations will be held in Havana on 8 and 9 March. Lazaro Mora, director for nonaligned countries in the Foreign Ministry, announced this at a meeting with the NAM ambassadors accredited in Cuba. He noted that the sixth summit decided that the coordination bureau and the coordinating countries in the various areas of economic and technical cooperation would meet at the level of experts. The objective of this fourth meeting will be to study the reasons which have prevented adequate progress of this program and to obtain recommendations to resolve this situation. The agenda includes study of the international economic situation, of the struggle to establish a new international economic order and of progress in cooperation among the developing countries. It also includes analysis of the nonaligned countries action program in general and by specific areas of cooperation. This second point will include a study of the difficulties in implementation and suggestions to increase its effect. The agenda also includes the drafting of recommendations for the next ministerial level meeting of the coordination bureau and the seventh summit of the nonaligned countries. [Text] [PA221830 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1712 GMT 20 Jan 82]

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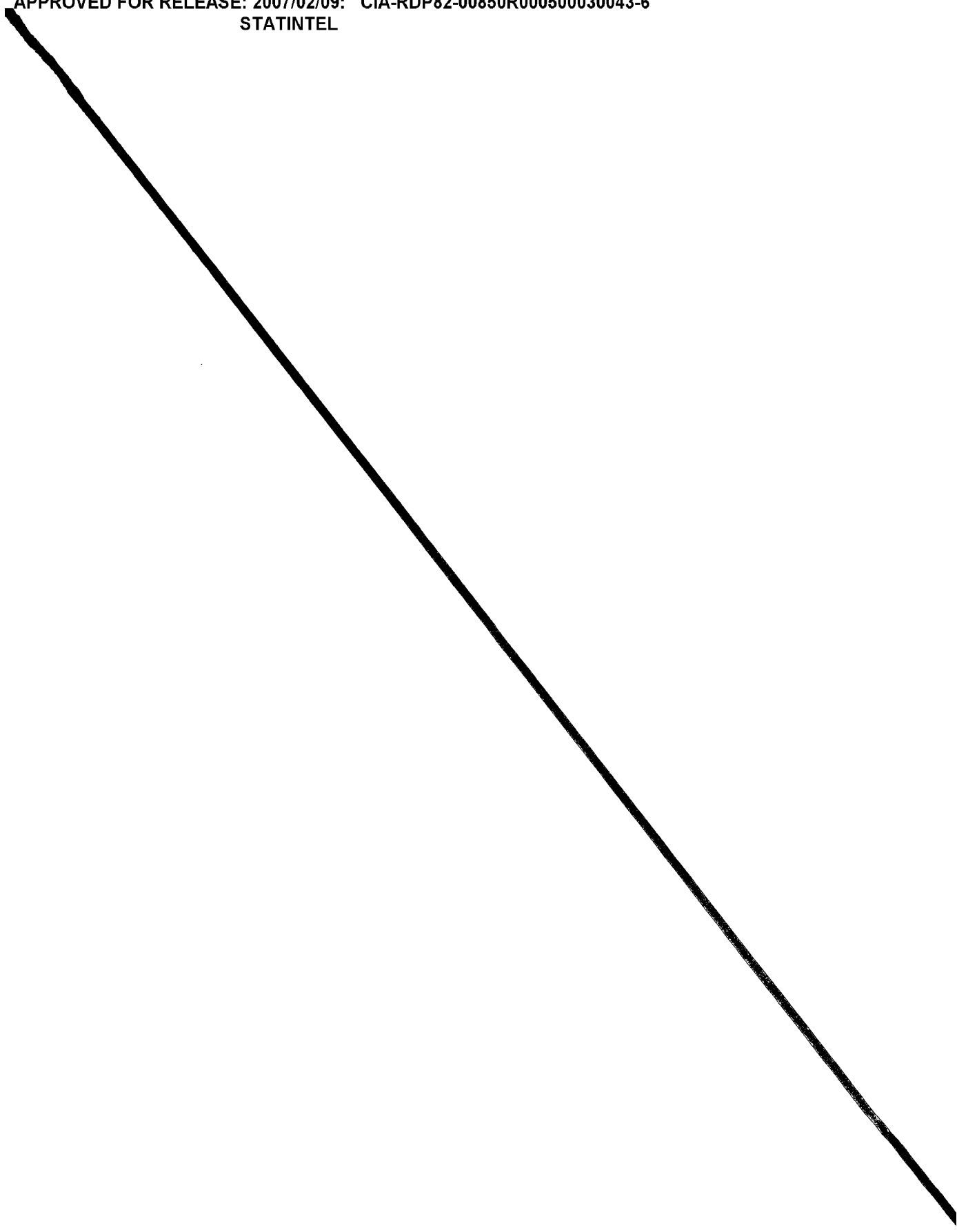
BRIEFS

'PRELA' REPORTS RADIO OPERATION--San Jose, 22 Jan (PL)--With the operation of a new rebel station and several battles in nine Salvadoran departments, the Salvadoran guerrillas commemorated the 1932 peasant uprising. Radio Farabundo Marti, the second guerrilla radio station installed in territory under the insurgents' control, has been described here as another communications medium that helps the liberation process at a time when the Military-Christian Democratic Junta tries to hide the events in El Salvador. The SALPRES Agency has reported that the radio station will transmit via shortwave from Monday to Saturday on 6.9 mHz in the 40-meter band and in the 49-meter band. [Excerpt] [PA221647 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1408 GMT 22 Jan 82]

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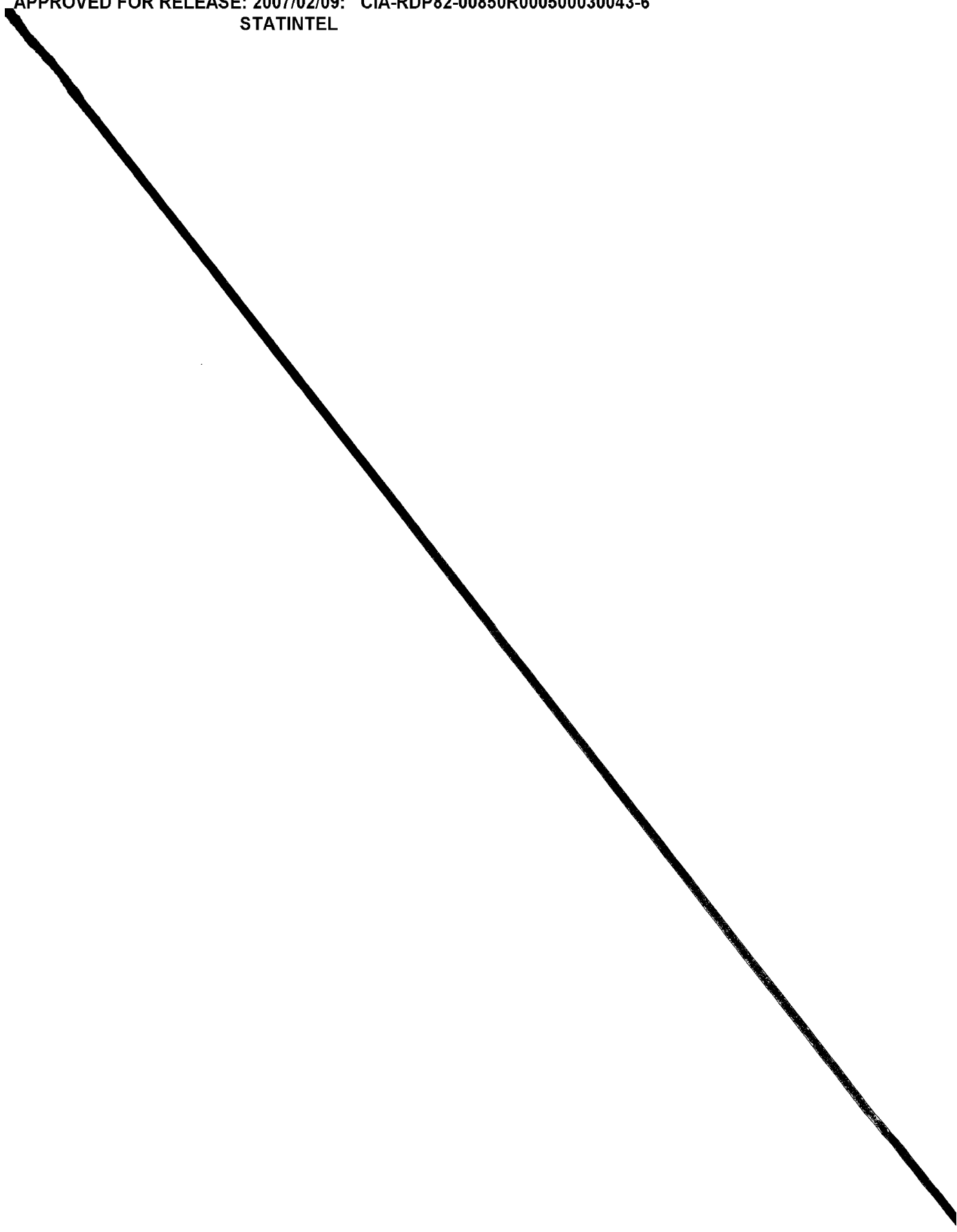
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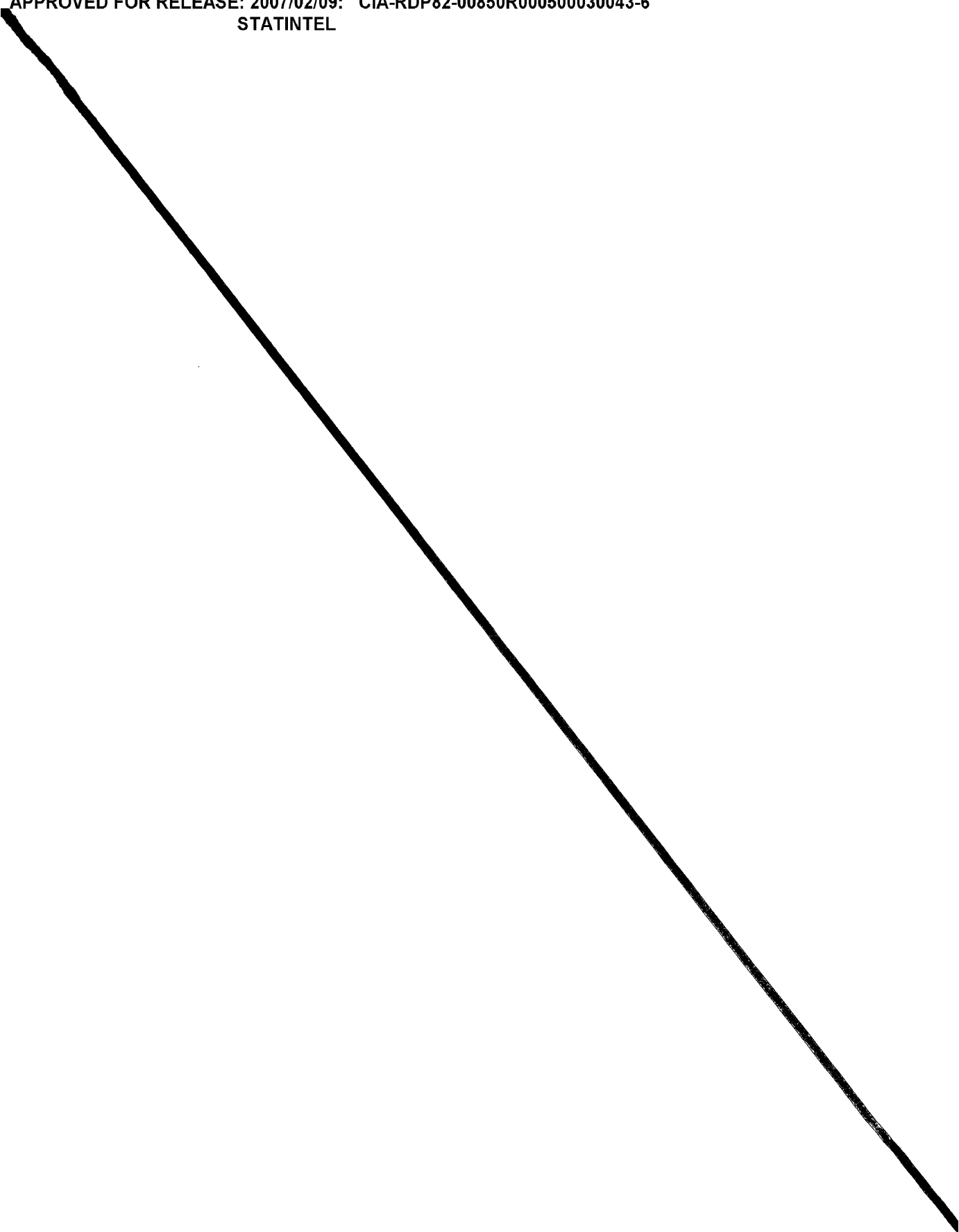
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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

COMMUNISTS PREDICT SOMBER ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

PA250100 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2314 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Lima, 24 Jan (PL)--The Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) has predicted a more somber economic panorama for 1982 and reiterated that the cause of the Peruvian crisis lies in submission to the interests of transnational companies.

The PCP's statement on the eve of its special eight national congress that begins on Thursday was released here in a document published in the weekly UNIDAD, from its political commission.

The document stated that this year there will be a worsening of the general economic situation with the elimination of subsidies, the increase of devaluations, the sale of public enterprises and the closure of small and medium-sized factories.

It also indicated that this policy will cause more unemployment and the reduction of the people's already-decreasing purchasing power and consumption.

At the same time, it added, the government plans to neutralize the trade union movement through an unfeasible "policy of coordination" without a radical change in its financial economic policy.

In this context, the document indicated that the signing of any pact of understanding with the government, as Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa Elias recently proposed in a speech to the nation, is impossible.

After indicating that Ulloa's defense of the government's "achievements" do not fit with reality, the document stated that the authorities are trying to evade their responsibilities and are blaming their failure on the drop in mineral prices on the international market, among other factors.

The real cause of this situation, it said, is the surrender of the minerals, petroleum and other resources to the monopolies; and the suffocation of the national sector and industry because of the lack of control over imports and high interest rates.

The PCP noted that production last year did not reach the announced 6 percent, that inflation reached more than 70 percent and that industrial growth only reached 1.8 percent while there was a negative trade balance and balance of payments.

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The document stressed that 52.6 percent of this year's budget is allocated to the payment of the public debt and military expenditures.

It also indicated that the increase in taxes and prices of fuel and the bigger foreign debt will have effects on the consumers and will be one more burden on their standard of living.

The PCP stated that the economic model of transnationalization and liberalization on the economy has shown here, as in Chile, Argentina and other countries, that it is not an option for achieving development. Nevertheless, it added, Prime Minister Ulloa affirms its concepts.

In contrast, the PCP proposed to the government that in order to overcome the crisis it must undertake independent development, nationalize the petroleum and mines and defend the important state sector.

It concluded by stating that this platform and the unity of the democratic and popular forces will permit the defense of national interests and the unity of the people around the establishment of a just and free society.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR ARRESTED--Lima, 25 Jan (PL)--Augusto Zimmermann Zavala, director of the opposition weekly publication KAUSACHUM, was arrested again today by the Peruvian authorities. Zimmermann went to the Justice Ministry to answer charges of contempt of court, lodged by Deputy Dagoberto Laynez of the Official Party Popular Action. Kausachum carries an editorial in which it terms the decision an abuse to try to silence the paper and urges the people to express their solidarity with Zimmermann. [Text] [PA280932 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2208 GMT 25 Jan 82]

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COUNTRY SECTION

SURNAME

BOUTERSE PROMISES END OF IMPERIALIST SUBJUGATION

PA031924 Havana PRELA in English 1915 GMT 3 Jan 82

[Article by Dario Ibanez Fajardo]

[Text] Kingston, 4 Jan (PL)--The "Progressive and Revolutionary Broad Front" set up recently in Suriname announced that its vital goal will be to remove from the country all vestiges of imperialist, neocolonialist and racist exploitation.

Dayse Bouterse, leader of the front and head of the ruling Military Council, stated in a message to the nation that "we will end the economic, political and cultural subjection of our country to imperialism."

He added that the structures based on racism that served the neocolonial regime will be destroyed and the foundations created of a new society that will guarantee the rights and liberties achieved by the populace, especially the toiling masses.

Further on in his message the Suriname leader confirmed that a constituent assembly will draw up a new constitution, in keeping with the national interests, to be promulgated and take effect this year.

The Suriname Government, he stated, will accept technical, economic and financial assistance from all countries that show they are prepared to do so without setting political conditions.

Likewise, he declared that his country will join no military alliance nor will it allow any military bases to be installed on its territory.

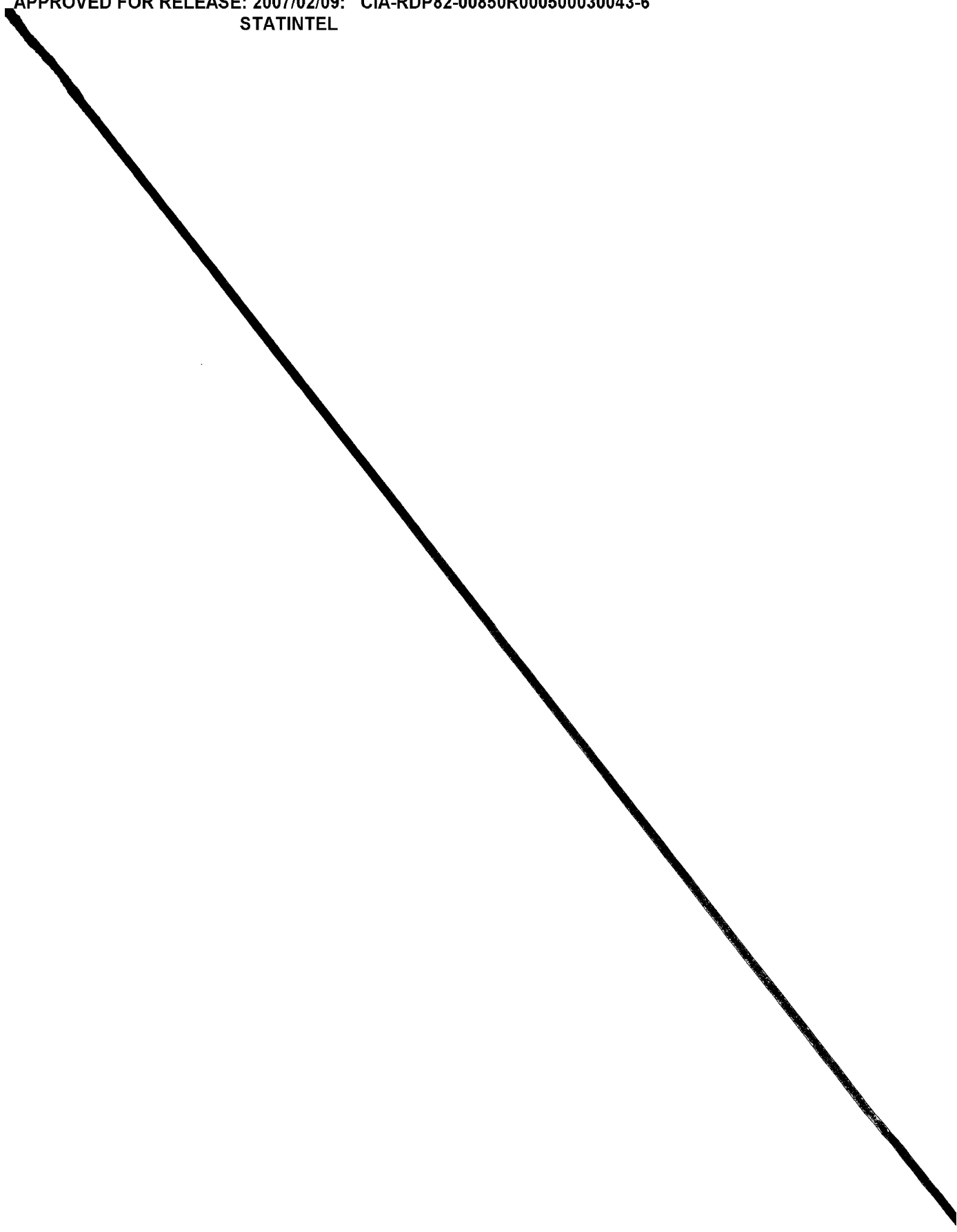
In regard to the front's foreign policy, Bouterse said it will be one of nonalignment characterized by ongoing defense of peace and support for the national liberation movements.

Finally, he announced that this year's activities will include reorganization of the army to turn it into popular armed forces for the defense of the workers' gains.

The Broad Revolutionary Front proclaimed over 2 weeks ago is comprised of representatives of the armed forces, political parties, unions, farmers and student organizations of Suriname.

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