

~~SECRET~~ MICROFICHE

1 COPY

ING

FRP:

STAFF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 001
TOT: 110008Z MAY 83

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 10 MAY.

CONTENTS:

1. GUATEMALA: MILITARY REORGANIZATION

[REDACTED]

NR

1. GUATEMALA: MILITARY REORGANIZATION

//A FUNDAMENTAL REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES' COMMAND STRUCTURE APPARENTLY IS INTENDED TO IMPROVE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS AND TO GIVE REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS MORE CONTROL OVER LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.//

//MILITARY ZONES HAVE BEEN MADE SMALLER TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY. EACH ZONE WILL CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE BATTALION, WHOSE COMMANDER WILL CONTROL ALL CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES, RESERVISTS, POLICE, AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE AREA.//

[REDACTED]

//A NEW GENERAL STAFF ALREADY EXERCISES OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE ZONES. SECURITY FORCES, CURRENTLY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT, WILL BE SHIFTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE DETECTIVE COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ALREADY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED, RESULTING IN THE DISMISSAL OF 266 POLICEMEN FOR CORRUPTION.//

//IN THE NEAR TERM, THE REORGANIZATION IS LIKELY TO WORSEN THE SHORTAGES OF PERSONNEL, WEAPONS, AND FACILITIES. STREAMLINING TACTICAL COMMAND AND CONTROL, HOWEVER, WILL HELP THE ARMY EXPAND ITS PRESENCE IN THE REMOTE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND THE PETER. THIS WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THERE.//

~~SECRET~~

OUTGOING MESSAGE

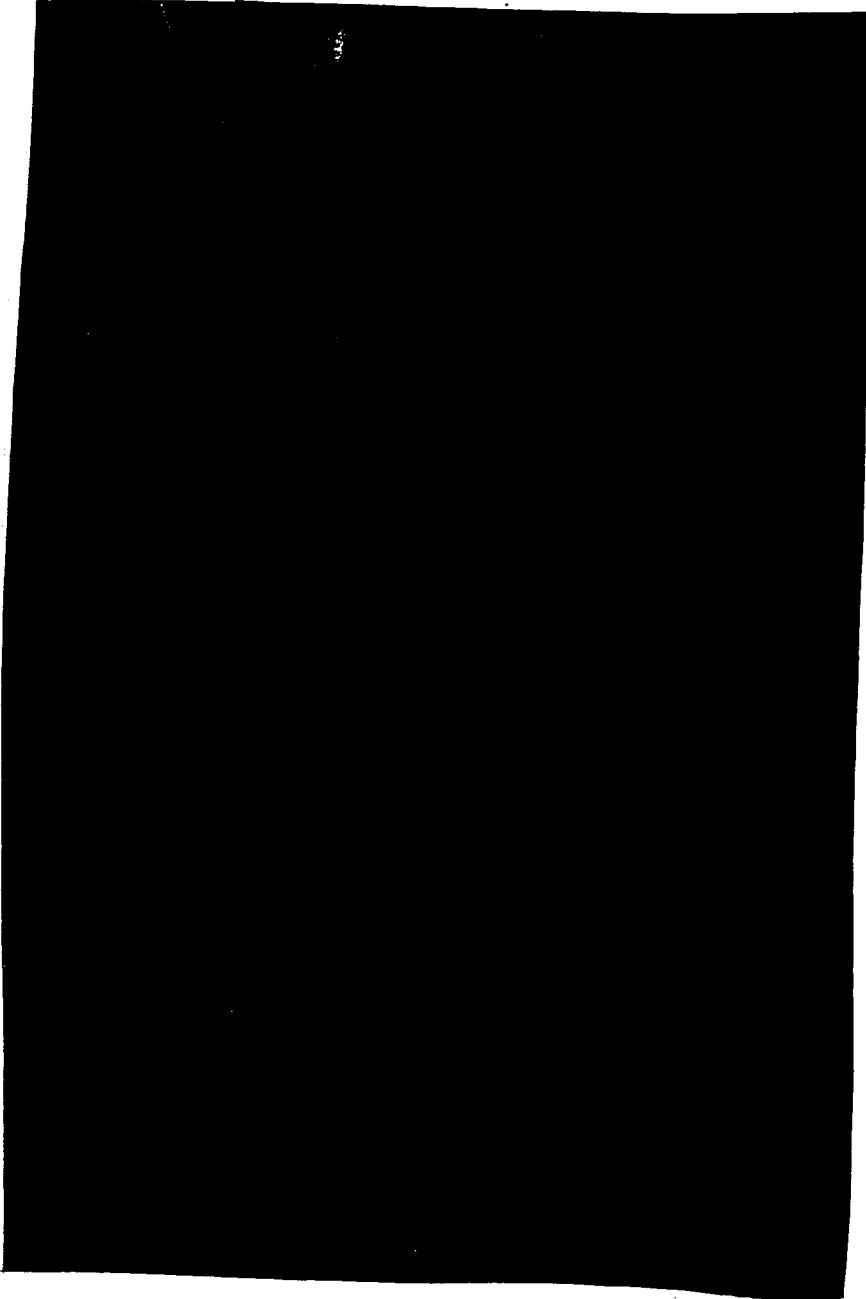
OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 002
TOT: 110008Z MAY 83

//THE ACQUISITION OF AUTHORITY OVER ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS PROBABLY WILL STRENGTHEN THE ARMY'S POLITICAL CONTROL. BRINGING THE CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES UNDER THE MILITARY, HOWEVER, SHOULD HELP REDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. IT ALSO SHOULD HELP END THE MISUSE OF THESE TROOPS BY LOCAL POLITICIANS AND MILITARY COMMISSIONERS.//



NR

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

OUTGOING
MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~