

SECRET

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MAR 92

1. ON 29 FEBRUARY 1992, A GUATEMALAN ARMY PATROL FROM THE TASK FORCE "QUETZAL" HAD AN ARMED ENCOUNTER WITH ELEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) LUIS IXMATA BATTALION, AT THE FINCA SAN JOSE ALTAMIRA, NEAR COLOMBA, QUETZALTENANGO DEPARTMENT, GUATEMALA. THIS AREA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF HEAVY AND FREQUENT CLASHES BETWEEN ARMY AND GUERRILLA FORCES, WITH FIVE SOLDIERS KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED DURING THE WEEK 23 FEB-1 MAR 92.

DURING THE ARMED ENCOUNTER, TWO GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED. ONE OF THEM, RAMON ((DE LA MORA)) BUENO, CARRIED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD FROM THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO. THE OTHER CARRIED A FALSE GUATEMALAN CEDULA IN THE NAME OF JOSE PIO ((GONZALEZ)) ESTRADA. THIS GUERRILLA'S PSEUDONYM WAS "PANCHO" (THE GUATEMALAN ARMY HAS DETERMINED THE TRUE NAME IDENTIFICATION OF A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE ACTIVE ARMED GUERRILLAS). DURING THE ACTION, THE ARMY TROOPS CAPTURED ONE AK-47 RIFLE, WITH AMMUNITION, A 9MM PISTOL, WITH AMMUNITION, A RUSSIAN HAND GRENADE, AN ICOM RADIO, A GUERRILLA COMMUNICATIONS CODEBOOK, TWO PACKS AND A COMBAT HARNESS.

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A FORMAL COMPLAINT ABOUT THE KILLING OF DE LA MORA, CLAIMING THAT HE WAS "MURDERED" BY GUATEMALAN TROOPS.

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[REDACTED] FOR THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, DE LA MORA WAS ASSUMED TO BE A GUATEMALAN CARRYING FALSE MEXICAN IDENTIFICATION, A COMMON PRACTICE AMONG GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS. EL GRAFICO OF 8 MAR 92 REPORTED THE MEXICAN CHARGES THAT THE GUATEMALAN ARMY HAD MURDERED A MEXICAN, AS WELL AS THE GUATEMALAN SIDE OF THE STORY THAT DE LA MORA WAS KILLED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OVER THE YEARS A NUMBER OF MEXICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED WHILE SERVING WITH GUATEMALAN GUERRILLA FORCES. IN EARLY 1991 A YOUNG MEXICAN WOMAN SERVING AS A NURSE WITH THE ORPA WAS CAPTURED AND RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

[REDACTED] THE DAY BEFORE THIS ENCOUNTER IN WHICH DE LA MORA AND PANCHO WERE KILLED, A GUERRILLA AMBUSH IN THE SAME AREA RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF A GUATEMALAN SOLDIER AND THE SERIOUS WOUNDING OF TWO OTHERS, INCLUDING MAJOR JESUS EFRAIN ((AGUIRRE)) LOARCA, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WE CAN EXPECT THE MEXICAN LEFT TO TRY TO MAKE THIS INCIDENT INTO A SERIOUS "HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION." IN OUR VIEW, THE KILLING OF DE LA MORA OCCURRED WHILE HE WAS ENGAGED IN MILITARY ACTIVITY WITH ARMED GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS.

[REDACTED]

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