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INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	SS-10	OIC-02
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O 302036Z AUG 82
 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0659
 INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
 AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 GUATEMALA 06435

E.O. 12356: DECL: 08/30/88
 TAGS: PINT, ASEC, SHUM, GT
 SUBJECT: (C) ATTRIBUTION OF MASSACRES -- A SUMMATION

FOR ARA/CEN ROBERT BLOHM

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 6237

- (B) BLOHM/TAYLOR TELECON 27 AUG 82

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: AS PER REF B, WE ARE PROVIDING A MORE DETAILED SUMMATION OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS REPORTED IN GUATEMALA 6237. WE ARE REPORTING THOSE THAT PROVIDE A DIRECT REFUTATION OR A MORE ACCURATE ELABORATION OF
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ACCOUNTS OF THESE EVENTS.
END SUMMARY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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3. CASE ONE. AI REPORTED 55 PEOPLE KILLED BETWEEN MARCH 30 AND APRIL 3 IN OR NEAR CHINIQUE, EL QUICHE. WE KNOW THAT THE VILLAGE OF CHINBACHUC IN CHINIQUE WAS ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE VILLAGE CIVIL DEFENSE FORCE FOUGHT OFF THEIR ATTACKERS WITH RIFLES, MACHETES, OLD FIRELOCK MUSKETS AND CLUBS. 11 VILLAGERS AND 2 GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED. IN THE WAKE OF THIS ATTACK, THE INHABITANTS PUBLICLY REQUESTED ARMY ASSISTANCE. WITNESSES REPORTED THAT SOME OF THE INTRUDERS WERE DRESSED IN OLIVE GREEN, OTHERS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING. THE ARMY SENT A PATROL TO GUARD THE VILLAGE FROM FURTHER ATTACK.

4. CASE TWO. AI REPORTED 40 CAMPESINOS KILLED BY UNKNOWN MEN IN XIMBAXUC, CHINIQUE, EL QUICHE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 2. VARIOUS SMALL VILLAGES IN EL QUICHE SUFFERED GUERRILLA ATTACKS IN LATE MARCH AND EARLY APRIL. XIMBAXUC WAS ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS AROUND APRIL 1. THE INHABITANTS RESISTED AND 12 OF THEM WERE KILLED. THE GUERRILLAS ROBBED THE VILLAGE OF ITS FOOD SUPPLY. SURVIVORS SPOKE TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 2 AND REPORTED THAT THE GUERRILLA LEADER WAS TALL, PALE AND BLOND. COMMENT: ON APRIL 2 THE PRESS VISITED SEVERAL VILLAGES IN EL QUICHE. THEIR REPORTS DO NOT DIFFER FROM OFFICIAL GOG BULLETINS. THE CAMPESINOS THAT SPOKE TO REPORTERS ON APRIL 2 STATED THAT THE CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS WERE GIVING THE GUERRILLAS A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE AND THAT SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS WAS WANING. WE NOTE THAT

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IN THIS CASE THE ARMY'S ACCOUNT WAS CONFIRMED BY EYEWITNESSES AND THE PRESS. END COMMENT.

5. CASE THREE. AI REPORTED 13 CAMPESINOS SHOT TO DEATH ON APRIL 3 IN THE VILLAGE OF NICABAJ, RABINAL, BAJA VERAPAZ. OUR REPORTS INDICATE THAT ON APRIL 3 SOME 200 GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF NICABAJ. ONCE AGAIN, POORLY ARMED CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES ATTEMPTED TO OFFER RESISTANCE; 13 WERE KILLED. THE GUERRILLAS THEN ASSEMBLED THE REMAINING VILLAGERS FOR A BRIEF ANTI-GOVERNMENT HARANGUE. ON LEAVING, THE GUERRILLAS BURNED 40 HOUSES, LEAVING 200 PEOPLE HOMELESS. SURVIVORS AGAIN CONFIRMED THE ARMY'S ACCOUNT OF THIS

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6. CASE FOUR. AI REPORTED CAMPESINOS KILLED IN THE VILLAGE OF AGUA CALIENTE, SAN JOSE POAQUIL, CHIMALTENANGO, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 15. OFFICIAL SOURCES STATE THAT GUERRILLAS TOOK OVER THE VILLAGE OF AGUA CALIENTE ON APRIL 16 AND KILLED 14 PEOPLE. EYEWITNESSES LATER SPOKE TO THE PRESS AND CONFIRMED THIS ACCOUNT. THEY ADDED THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THE ARMY WAS RESPONSIBLE AND APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR PROTECTION.

7. CASE FIVE. AI REPORTED 20 PEOPLE BURNED ALIVE IN THEIR HOMES AND THAT THE SURVIVORS BLAMED THE ARMY. AI REPORTED THIS INCIDENT AS HAVING OCCURRED ON APRIL 26 IN THE VILLAGE OF CHIPIACUL, PATZUN, CHIMALTENANGO, AND THEY ALSO HAD THE NAMES AND AGES OF THOSE SLAIN. THE PRESS REPORTED 20 CAMPESINOS KILLED IN THIS VILLAGE ON APRIL 26. THE SURVIVORS STATED THAT 16 CIVIL DEFENSEMEN WERE GATHERED IN

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THEIR USUAL MEETING PLACE WHEN 30 UNKNOWN AND ARMED MEN CREPT INTO THE VILLAGE ON FOOT AND SURROUNDED THEM. EXCEPT FOR MACHETES, THE DEFENSE FORCE WAS UNARMED. THE INTRUDERS SHOT THEM TO DEATH, COVERED THEIR BODIES WITH BLANKETS AND SET THEM AFIRE. ANOTHER MAN AND WOMAN WERE KILLED IN THE SAME MANNER INSIDE OF THEIR HOUSE. TWO MORE BODIES WERE LOCATED LATER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE. THERE IS NO MENTION OF EYEWITNESSES BLAMING THE ARMY AND THE FACT THAT THE CIVIL DEFENSE TEAM WAS THE VICTIM OF THIS MASSACRE MAKES SUCH A PRESUMPTION EVEN LESS LIKELY. THE PRESS REPORTED THE NAMES AND AGES OF ALL THE VICTIMS.

8. CASE SIX. AI REPORTED THAT 43 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE VILLAGE OF SAQUILLA, CHICHICASTENANGO,
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ON MAY 18 BY ARMED MEN GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE. AMONG THE DEAD WERE 25 CHILDREN. LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS CONFIRM THIS MASSACRE. YET, AI DOES NOT MENTION THE ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THE SURVIVORS. THE ARMED MEN APPEARED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING AND ROUSTED THE POPULATION WITH A CALL TO FORM THEMSELVES UP AND GIVE CHASE TO GUERRILLAS. WHEN THE INHABITANTS GATHERED TO DO SO, THEY WERE SURROUNDED AND THE MASSACRE BEGAN. LATER PRESS REPORTS RAISED THE DEATH COUNT TO 46. AGAIN, THIS MASSACRE TOOK PLACE WHEN THE LOCAL POPULACE SHOWED A WILLINGNESS TO AID "GOVERNMENT" FORCES IN THE ANTI-INSURGENCY CAMPAIGN. WE BELIEVE THE GUERRILLAS DECEIVED THE VILLAGERS WITH AN EARLY MORNING "REVEILLE" TO AID THE ARMY AND KILLED THEM WHEN

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THEY RESPONDED.

9. COMMENT. WE SHOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT, IN GENERAL, THE GUERRILLAS HAVE WAGED A SUSTAINED AND INDISCRIMINATE CAMPAIGN OF TERROR, ARSON, INTIMIDATION, KIDNAPPING, MAYHEM, BOMBING, DISINFORMATION AND MURDER. APART FROM THE CASES OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS INCIDENTS IGNORED OR DOWNPLAYED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GUERRILLAS MURDERED USCIT JESSIE PITTS JARVITS IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR ON HIS FARM NEAR SAN CRISTOBAL, ALTA VERAPAZ. THE GUERRILLAS HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF A UNIVERSITY STUDENT (MENDEZ RUIZ), A NEWSPAPER EDITOR (ALVAREZ CONTRERAS), AND AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN (CLIFFORD BEVINS); THE LATTER DID NOT SURVIVE HIS ORDEAL.

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10. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE GUERRILLAS HAVE NOT HESITATED TO ATTACK CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES. THE VERY ORGANIZATION AND PRESENCE OF SUCH UNITS BELIES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOG IS AT WAR WITH "THE PEOPLE". THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE FEROCITY OF SOME OF THE GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON SUCH FORCES; IF CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS CAN PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THE GOG'S COUNTER-INSURGENCY CAMPAIGN, THE CURRENT IMAGE OF GUATEMALA AS A GOVERNMENT WARRING AGAINST ITS OWN POPULATION IS LIKELY TO BE GIVEN LESS CREDENCE.

11. DIFFICULTIES YET REMAIN. FOR INSTANCE, WE CANNOT CHECK ON SOME OF AI'S SOURCES. OFTEN THEIR REPORTS INDICATE A "CAMPESINO GROUP" OR "PEASANTS" AS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. THESE MAY REPRESENT SOURCES INSIDE GUATEMALA OR VARIOUS FRONT GROUPS IN COSTA RICA, MEXICO OR THE U.S. WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT MANY DEATHS AS UNATTRIBUTABLE BECAUSE WE HAVE INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO REPORT OTHERWISE.

12. FINALLY, WE SHOULD NOTE THAT WHEN EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL HAVE VISITED THE COMBAT AREAS WE HAVE HAD ACCESS TO EYEWITNESS REPORTS. FOR EXAMPLE,

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LEVITSKY AND JOHNSTONE WERE ABLE TO SPEAK FREELY WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF SALACIUM, ALTA VERAPAZ, ON AUGUST 13. THIS VILLAGE HAD BEEN ATTACKED ON MAY 10 AND WITNESSES REPORTED THAT THE GUERRILLAS HAD KILLED 26 PEOPLE, INCLUDING A MOTHER NURSING HER INFANT. A CIVIL DEFENSE PATROL SURPRISED AND EVENTUALLY DROVE OFF THE GUERRILLAS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS WERE REHEARSED OR MANIPULATED BY THE GOG. END COMMENT. CHAPIN

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